

Platypus Tracks Winter Edition 2025



**THE NEXT GENERATION:
STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY**

6-13 JULY 2025



Ballarat and District
Aboriginal
Co-operative Ltd

In this Issue

Page

From our Chairperson	3
From our CEO	4
Perridak Burrton Early Learning	6
Yaluk Burrton early Learning	7
Yirram Burrton Early Learning/KPSA	8
Community Information	9
Connected Beginnings	10
Bengadak Babab Playgroup	12
Medical Clinic Updates	14
Breast Screen Group	15
Mother's Day Community Retreat	16
Koorie Connections Day	17
NAIDOC	18
Youth Art Expo	20
Sate Budget Announcement	21
Wada Warr Borrela	22
Community Information	23
Upcoming Events	24
Community Information	26
Community Information	28
Carers Circle	30
Strengthening Cultural Connections	31
Local Justice Worker	32
BADAC Closure	33
Child Safety Statement	34
BADAC Information	35
Important Numbers	36

We wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land of Ballaarat, The Wadawurrung people.

We acknowledge their Elders, Past, Present and emerging and also acknowledge those people from other nations who after being part of the Stolen Generations, chose to make Ballaarat their home.

FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON—LARRY KANOA

I would like to start by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, live, work and play.

I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Haven't we been lucky with the weather so far. We need the rain, but it's been nice to be able to still enjoy some sunshine after the cold mornings.

Thank you to those members who attended the Special General Meeting (SGM) in April. In a unanimous vote, 3 blocks in Miners Rest will be sold, with the remaining two to have houses built on them which will then be rented to community members. This will help to build on our housing portfolio and assist those in the community. We will continue to keep updating with the progress.

With the months going by, we soon look to celebrate NAIDOC week—'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'. I look forward to seeing community enjoying themselves once again through the week of celebrations. Check out the flyer further on for all the details regarding BADACs events.



Regards,

Larry Kanoa

Chairperson



FROM OUR CEO—KAREN HEAP

Hi everyone,

I hope everyone is making the most of the autumn sunshine and preparing for winter. As always, the first quarter of 2025 has been busy, with all the usual challenges, celebrations and positive news for our community.

Condolences

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the sad passing of several much-loved community members, who have gone to the Dreamtime. We offer thanks for their wonderful lifetime contributions to cultural knowledge and community. Sincere condolences to family and friends.

Goodbye and Thank You to Chief Finance Officer Leigh Skelton.

BADAC is seeing a major change this year with our fantastic Chief Finance Officer (CFO), Leigh Skelton, taking a well-deserved long service leave and retiring in 2026.

Leigh has been a vital part of BADAC's success for the past 12 years.

As CFO, he demonstrated extraordinary vision and dedication. He always steered a safe financial ship, while supporting me to quadruple BADAC's programs and services and grow our staff from 45 employees to 240, to ensure BADAC can continue to meet the needs of our rapidly growing Aboriginal community now and in the future.

Leigh project-managed the medical clinic, oversaw the Elders Village construction, utilised his finance magic to help us build and acquire our three early years centres, and has substantially built our supply of Aboriginal community housing.

Leigh has been great to have in the office, always behaving with calm, humour and kindness, and is very highly regarded by his teams.

A huge thank you from all of us, Leigh. You will be missed.

Meet New Chief Finance Officer Mick Smith

I am delighted to welcome our new Chief Finance Officer, Mick Smith.

Mick is a Fellow Certified Practicing Accountant (FCPA) and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD). He has extensive experience as a finance leader, most recently in local government as General Manager Corporate Performance and Chief Finance Officer at Ballarat Health Services. He lives locally and shares his farm with wife Angela.

Mick has hit the ground running, applying his finance expertise to our 2025/2026 budget, monthly finance reports and funding agreements and acquittals. He is looking

forward to meeting more of our community during NAIDOC week.

Funding news!

Housing:

BADAC has received funding from Aboriginal Housing Victoria which will enable BADAC and our Aboriginal community to benefit from the Victorian government's Big Housing Build. The funding will support a position at BADAC to develop all the governance, policies, procedures and other processes needed for us to apply for much-needed Housing funding. This will be a specialist position with the HR & Governance team.

New Funding for Crisis and Transitional Housing for Aboriginal women:

Member for Ballarat and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, this Feb announced very significant funding for BADAC: the federal government is funding us to build culturally safe housing for Aboriginal women and children needing crisis and transitional housing.

This is a much-needed and vital project for our community. We are absolutely delighted and look forward to delivering this project over the next few years.

NAIDOC 2025: The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy.

Planning for NAIDOC week is progressing well. 2025 events are:

Mon 7 July: Flag raising and walk to the cemetery, followed by community lunch at BADAC.

Wed 9 July: This year our Family Fun Day will be held at the Ballarat High School precinct.

There will be stalls, activity, music and of course a great free lunch for everybody.

*If you would like to have a NAIDOC stall, please contact Erin Kanoa on ekanoa@badac.net.au *

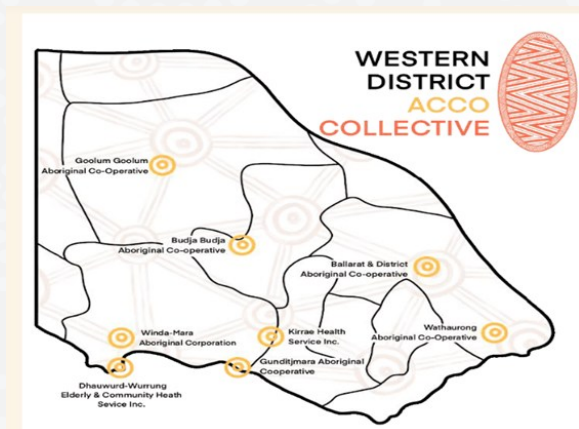
Please keep an eye on BADAC facebook for updates.

We look forward to a wonderful NAIDOC 2025!



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

Western District ACCO Collective (WDAC)



WDAC membership includes Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative, Budja Budja Aboriginal Co-operative, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative, Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative, Kirrae Health Service, Wathauring Aboriginal Co-operative, and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Co-operative.

We are an ACCO collective working together to give Community a voice to all levels of government and to support each other with one goal – to better serve Community by addressing, advocating and reforming current systems.

WDAC has begun an Oral Care Feasibility Study, looking at culturally safe dental care in Western Vic, so our community does not have to travel to Melbourne for dental and specialist dental services.

Forums, Boards and Advocacy

This year has already been a busy one with key forums where sector decision makers are gathered. This gives ACCOs a great chance to formally and informally raise the issues currently facing our communities.

2025 Forums and Boards so far:

Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Forum 25-26 March:

Hosted by Dept of Health and VACCHO.

Aboriginal Children's Forum:

5 May. Attendees: VACCA, ACCO CEOs, Health services.

Treaty attended to talk to everyone.

WDAC at BADAC:

19-20 May

I am a member of the **Gariwerd Governance Committee** for Grampians Health

Monthly BADAC Board meetings:

Thanks as always to our BADAC Aboriginal community board members who serve voluntarily on our Board to guide BADAC's strategic directions.

Polling Booth

Wed 11 Oct: BADAC hosting an early Polling Booth in our tree room for the recent federal election. Please let us know if that worked well for you or you would prefer two days for other elections.

Wada Warr Borrelia Elders Village – delivering on the vision

Our residents at Wada Warr Borrelia are settling in well with the village almost at full capacity. We anticipate we will be at full occupancy within the next few months.

The residents have been enjoying some great activities and group sessions with each other and sharing stories at meal times. Make sure you read some of the comments from our residents further on in the newsletter.

Perridak Arts is thriving

It's great to see Perridak Arts thriving, with so many of our community encouraged to create wonderful artworks and crafts to display and sell. Huge thanks to you all for supporting our Art Gallery. Remember it's a great place to buy gifts and there is something special for everyone. Perridak Arts is a community space, so please drop in for a browse and say hello.

I look forward to seeing you all during NAIDOC week and other BADAC events this winter.

Kind regards and take care,

Karen Heap



PERRIDAK BURRON EARLY LEARNING

Our Perridak mob have had a great start to 2025 with settling in new families, farewelling our kinders off to formal schooling, and introducing new and exciting opportunities for our Educators and children within our program. During term 1 we focused on building relationships with our new room friends, Educators and families.

On Friday 9th May, we spent the afternoon celebrating all of the special Ngardang/ Mothers, Grandmothers, Auntie's and special women in our lives. We shared a delicious afternoon tea, made and decorate cupcakes and biscuits, pampered them with manicures and painted nails, and created so many beautiful gifts. We hope everyone had the most amazing and special day!

The children have shown a great interest in community occupations, more specifically fire fighters! So to celebrate International Firefighters Day, we were lucky to have fire fighters Cayden and Liam come visit us bringing along all their gear and the big red fire truck. We got to explore their equipment, how and why they use each part of the truck and the children also got to explore the truck first hand in our carpark, the children certainly enjoyed having a turn at using the hose!

We look forward to celebrating many upcoming events such as Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC, Morning Tea for Culture, Ngarra Dja learning on country and sharing updates on those with you in the next edition of Platypus Tracks.



YALUK BURRON EARLY LEARNING

A Wonderful Start to 2025 at Yaluk

What a fantastic start to the year it's been for our Burron children at Yaluk! We've already taken part in some exciting and meaningful experiences that have helped the children learn, grow, and connect with others.

To recognise Close the Gap Day, a national campaign for health equality for First Nations Peoples, the children explored healthy eating by making Bush Bread. Using self-raising flour, natural yoghurt, salt, and native ingredients like pepper berries and bush salt, they measured, mixed, and baked together. It was a fun and hands-on way to learn about health and culture.

For Clean Up Australia Day, we turned our yard into a mini clean-up zone by scattering different types of rubbish. The children worked together to clean it up, learning how to sort items into the correct bins and why it's important to care for our environment.

During Recycle Day, we created a special painting wall using a range of recycled materials. The children loved painting on the different textures, exploring creativity while learning about reusing and recycling.

One of the highlights of the term has been starting our Grand Buddy Program with residents from MECWA Care. Children from our Kuwiyn, Yaluk, Garrang, Barnong, and Parrwang rooms have been paired with residents based on shared interests. Over the year, they'll be connecting through letters, drawings, and creative projects.

To begin the program, we shared the story *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*, a touching tale about friendship across generations. Our Grand Buddies sent their first letters and crafts, and the children have been busy creating their own thoughtful replies. With the help of our Heggerty literacy program, the children used their letter and sound knowledge to compose their responses, making the learning even more meaningful.

It's been a joyful and busy Term 1, filled with learning, creativity, and connection. We can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings!



YIRRAM BURRON EARLY LEARNING

What a busy and fun time we have had at Yirram Burron over the past few months. We farewelled our teacher Ange last term and welcomed Kelly at the beginning of this term. We are continuing to develop our loving and trusting relationships as we form our new mob.

During Term One we celebrated Harmony Day by painting our hands and nunga dolls - united together as we explored multiculturalism, inclusiveness and respect for all. We had a visit from the dentist and dental nurse to learn about brushing our teeth and to help us grow our self-help skills. Yirram Burron turned THREE at the end of the term and we marked this special occasion with food, dance and art!

Parrwang the magpie has flown in to help us develop 'The Way We Play'. This will support us to make strong choices and be kind friends to one another. A favourite Dreamtime story, Tiddalick has been introduced to the burron. We are beginning to explore this story through the 8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning.

Plans are underway to celebrate Reconciliation Week very soon. We look forward to an amazing year ahead!



BUPOP BALAK WAYIPUNGANG (KPSA)

Over the last three months in my program, I have been actively visiting kindergarten services in and around Ballarat with the culture kit to teach children about the significance and uses of various Aboriginal artifacts. During these visits, I have engaged with educators and staff to share insights and resources that highlight the importance of Aboriginal heritage, traditions, and perspectives. My efforts have focused on empowering these services to create culturally enriched programs that honor Aboriginal history and identity. This collaboration has not only enhanced the educators' confidence in incorporating Aboriginal perspectives into their curricula but has also encouraged meaningful connections with local Aboriginal communities. Through these initiatives, I hope to support the development of a more inclusive educational framework that respects and celebrates our rich cultural diversity.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION



COME, LISTEN, LEARN AND BE HEARD

PREGNANT MOTHERS

KNOWLEDGE SHARING FOR NEW MUMS

With Connected Beginnings Team Ballarat & Special Guests



First Monday of each month
2pm - 3pm

Light refreshments

Free program at Yirram
Burron Early Years Hub

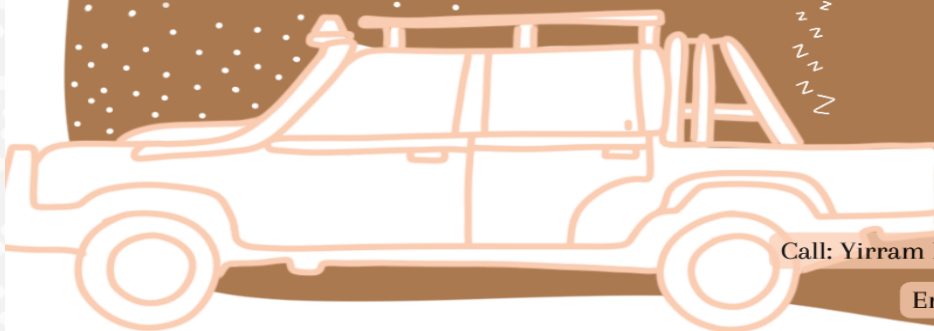
111 Rubicon Street, Sebastopol



Men and their kids

Are you a Dad, Uncle or Carer, and are looking for ways to boost your skills - like cooking meals, tying hair and yarning with other men in the same situation.

Then this group is for you.



Register your interest:
Call: Yirram Burron Hub on 5335 6231
or
Email: chood@badac.net.au

CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

On March 21st we had our open day, a HUGE thanks to Auntie Kim Kelly for Welcoming us to Wadawurrung Country and officially opening our program in Ballarat.

We had a few new families and community members, come down and check out what connected beginnings can offer support with. Our team worked hard to make dilly bags for the little ones coming to gather information from different stall holders and of course the native animals were a success, with the adults and children learning facts, and holding them. It was lovely listening to all the laughter and fun we had throughout the day. Our team is looking forward to more deadly things to come.

Sarah and Ashleigh would like to thank the entertainment and stall holders:

- Uncle Paul & the Moogies, Xtreme Wildlife, ECKA, KFFE, BADAC Medical, Youth Team BADAC, City of Ballarat, Services Australia & Federation University horticultural team.

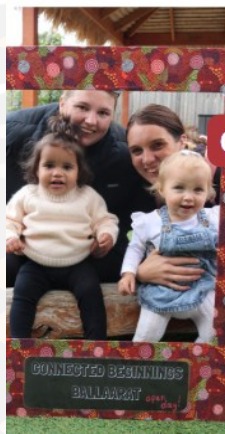
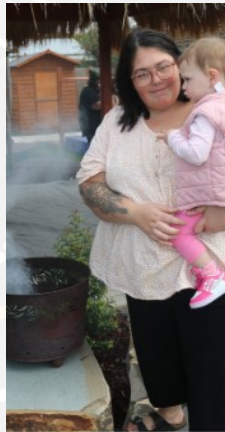
Recently we have been lucky enough to get Cassandra as our new Admin Support Officer, she has been meeting our families and learning about the program. Come in for a cuppa and say hello.



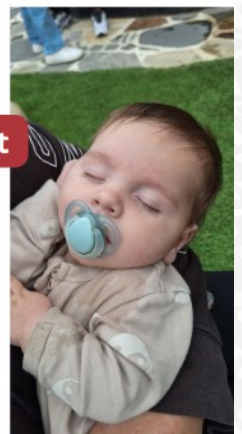
CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

Over the past few months, we have been up to a few things:

- Connecting with families through playgroup, Perridak, Yirram and linking them in with other services, whether it be NDIS, local events, Services Australia and BADAC programs/supports.
- NAIDOC Week preparation, teaming up with Macayla – wayipungitj to create a fun and engaging activity for children aged 0-5years. We will also hold 10-minute tummy time sessions for little bubs. If you are interested in being a part of this please email Cass - chood@badac.net.au with these details: NAIDOC tummy time session, name, bubs name and age. e.g. **NAIDOC tummy time session / Ashleigh – Lyra, 17 months**
- Sarah is networking with the Special Development School and getting some of our family's school ready for 2026! Applications for private schools closed on Thursday May 22nd. If you are interested in more information regarding schooling, transitions, kindergarten enrolments. Please call Yirram Burron Early Years Hub on 5335 6231 OR Sarah on 0436 000 217.
- Outreaching with other CB (Connected Beginnings) sites. In June we will be driving up to the Murray River, to Mildura. Attending their successful "kinder day" event.
- Planning for events – pregnant mums program, dads and their kids, growing strong families (mums and bubs session – however this will be open for all guardians to attend), monthly family cooking session. What supports do you think our community needs? Fill out the below form and send through to Ashleigh - amoore@badac.net.au to get these things happening.
- Attending events across the Ballarat community - BADAC youth art expo, BADAC Youth school holiday program, Barkley Square open day, ACAC carers information night, DTC services information day, and collaborative learning sessions through the city of Ballarat.
- ASQ-TRAK training, coming up in June. ASQ-TRAK is a culturally appropriate developmental screening tool, check out this website for more information: <https://www.strongkidsstrongfuture.com.au/asqtrak/>
- Aboriginal Best Start Forum – coming up in June as well. This will be held in Melbourne. Guest MC is April Clarke, an Eastern Maar Kirrae-Whurrong women and accomplished children's author with over 20 yrs experience in Aboriginal education. Passionate about delivering professional development that promotes Aboriginal perspectives in early years, April will support a day that will be fun, practical, interactive, and inclusive of everyone.
- Save the date for: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day event Monday August 4th 2025
- Leadership community group – register your interest to be a part of this gathering session, to speak up on things our 0 - 5-year-old community needs to thrive before 5! - Starting June.



Connected Beginnings Ballarat



OPEN DAY!



BENGEGDAK BABAB PLAYGROUP

Bengagdak Babab Playgroup is back in full swing for another deadly term. We have had a few changes from term 1. I would formally like to introduce myself to mob, my name is Kat Clarke (I'm also a Harrison), and I am the new facilitator of the playgroup sessions. I am a proud Wotjobaluk woman with a 2-year-old son and I'm stoked to be able to share my teachings with you. I have an extensive background in art, storytelling, writing, native and medicinal foods, clay making and crafts. I am also someone who enjoys deep listening and learning from Elders and community. My teachings are for mob to use and feel confident practicing so if there is something specific you would like to gain from the sessions, please reach out and let me know. I can work to incorporate them into the program.

Bengagdak Babab Playgroup is a safe space for families to engage with their culture and feel empowered to practice their teachings in any environment. I am keen to get to know you and your family, building solid relationships with you all. Of course, I am still learning myself as education is an on-going thing throughout life and culture is no different, so if there is anything I am not sure of I will work to bring in the expertise.

Please come along and join us from 10:30am - 12:30pm; as we explore **Back to Nature**, which is now on **Mondays** at **Woowookarung National Park**, and our Friday sessions at Yirram Burron.

Don't be shame to share your own culture and experiences with us, as it is about learning and engaging together as a community.



BENGEGDAK BABAB PLAYGROUP

Term 2 | 2025

BENGADAK BABAP

celebrating our children

On Dja/Country Monday :
10.30am - 12.30pm

Woowookarung National Park
dementia friendly forest and sensory trail
Katy Ryans Rd, Canadian VIC 3350



April 10am -12pm | AT YIRRAM

MONDAY
28.04.2025

Welcome
back!
Piklet making
with native jam



National Sorry Day

Youth Team
Dance Session
AT YIRRAM

MONDAY
26.05.2025

May 10.00am - 12.00pm | AT YIRRAM

FRIDAY
02.05.2025

Weaving session,
bracelets
& sticks



Dance Session
FRIDAY
30.05.2025

FRIDAY
09.05.2025

Ochre
crushing &
Painting



Reed
necklaces
FRIDAY
02.06.2025



PUBLIC HOLIDAY
MONDAY
09.06.2025

FRIDAY
16.05.2025

Finger painting
Learning
Animal Tracks



Weaving
session,
bracelets
& sticks
FRIDAY
13.06.2025



FRIDAY
23.05.2025

Finger painting
Learning
Animal Tracks



Visitor TBC
FIRDAY
20.06.2025

Youth Team
Dance Session
FRIDAY
27.06.2025



MEDICAL CLINIC UPDATES

Health Alerts

Measles cases (Victoria).

- MMR vaccination is the best way to protect against Measles.

Vaccination is available at BADAC. Please contact Medical Reception to make book an appointment with a GP, OR to find out more information.

Connected Beginnings:

BADAC's early learning centre (e.g. Perridak Burrton - Education backbone)

will be working with the medical unit (health backbone) aiming to integrate service

in the community - Improving the school readiness of Ballarat's Aboriginal community (aged 0-5 years). As part of this program, we are introducing the following Specialists / Allied Health supports:

1. Speech Pathology (Adult) - Refer to flyer further in newsletter
2. Speech Pathology (Paediatric) - Refer to flyer further in newsletter
3. Paediatrician (July 2025 – finalising discussions).

Lifestyle Health Programs

After Hours Clinic

Since commencing (3rd December 2025) after-hours clinics, the medical unit has created an additional 235 appointment for Ballarat's Aboriginal Community.

Clinic hours:

1. Monday: 09:00 – 17:00
2. Tuesday: 09:00 – 20:00
3. Wednesday: 09:00 – 17:00
4. Thursday: 09:00 – 20:00
5. Friday: 09:00 – 16:00

*Afterhours clinics are scheduled to increase over the year [2025]. More information to come!

It is with great regret that we formally acknowledge the resignation of:

- i. JoAnne Clark
- ii. Sharon Williams
- iii. Simone Sayers

We are very appreciative of JoAnne's Sharon's & Simone's work in the McH space, and the connections / relationships formed with Ballarat's Aboriginal families. We wish them all best with their new journey.

We have engaged the City of Ballarat (Maternal Child Health) who will be assisting in this space (offering McHN consultations from BADAC). We are very appreciative of the support relationships formed with the City of Ballarat.

We welcome Jeandanielle (JD) as our new McHN - JD commences on Wednesday 4th June 2025.

Maternal Child Health Services

Podiatry/Diabetes Education

We welcome the return (maternity leave) of Emma Nield (Podiatrist / Diabetes Educator). Emma is currently working

Tuesday: 17:00 – 20:00 (Podiatry).

Friday (every second): 09:00 – 16:00 (Podiatry).

Please contact the medical clinic for GP appointments (which include flu / COVID-19 booster appointments).

Vaccinations & GP Appointments

BREAST SCREEN GROUP

BreastScreen Group

The Best Protection is Early Detection

**Are you an Aboriginal woman aged 40-74
years?**

Have you had your BreastScreen
in the last 2 years?

Join us on

Tuesday 10 June 2025

**Meet at main entrance of Queen Elizabeth
Centre, 102 Ascot Street, Ballarat at 11.45am.
Transport is available.**

Enjoy some time yarning with other women in the
community, and have a free BreastScreen



**Any questions ask Amanda
Bookings can be made at BADAC
Medical Reception 5331 5344**



MOTHER'S DAY COMMUNITY RETREAT

"Self-Care, Self-Love & Strong Women – Mother's Day Community Retreat

Our **Mother's Day Community Retreat** was all about celebrating the strength and spirit of our mums, aunties, and carers.

Through yarning, weaving, massage, and cultural connection, we created space for **healing, self-care, and self-love**. It was a day to fill our cups, honour our stories, and lift each other up.

Thank you to everyone who came along and shared in the strength of community and culture. "



KOORIE CONNECTIONS DAY

On the 24th of April, the Youth team took some of our Lil Lubly girls down to Booln Booln Cultural centre for a Connections day with Local Geelong mob.

It was a great chance for them to hear guest Speaker Courtney Ugle talk about her journey on losing both her parents at a young age, being exposed to Domestic Violence at an early age, and other struggles. She took her pain and struggles and turned that into a Career where she can help other Mob around Australia. The girls having met her before at a Djirra Young Luv, it was a great chance for them to catch up and keep connected with her.

Our youth were able to hear about programs that Geelong have on offer and different job opportunities as well, learn more about Possum Skins in dance from Auntie Yaraan Bundle and learn about Treaty from Jordan Edwards.



BADAC NAIDOC Community Day

If you are interested in holding a stall at our community day, please contact Erin Kanoa at ekanoa@badac.net.au to register your interest.

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE AND ONLY 1
TABLE PER STALL**

This years community event will be held at Ballarat High School, Wednesday 9th July - more details to follow.



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BADAC NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS



THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

6-13 JULY 2025

**JUL
07**

10am
Flag raising,
smoking ceremony
&
acknowledgement
of country at
BADAC

10:30
Walk to Ballarat
cemetery to pay
respect to
Mullawallah &
smoking ceremony

12:30
Lunch at BADAC in
the Tree Room

**JUL
09** **COMMUNITY
DAY
10AM-2PM**

This year we will be at
Ballarat High School
from 10am-2pm

Kids activities, petting
zoo, face painting,
stalls, Indigenous
Outreach Projects,
BBQ lunch, food
tastings and much
more.

Bring your family &
friends to come and
join us for a fun day
out!

YOUTH ART EXPO



On the 30th of April BADAC youth held the 3rd Youth Art Expo at BADAC Main Building.

We had over 100 pieces of Art from Local Aboriginal youth and pieces donated by staff.

It was an amazing night to catch up with Community and celebrate our deadly youth.

We had a crowd favourite Artwork completion, this year's winners, we had a draw with;

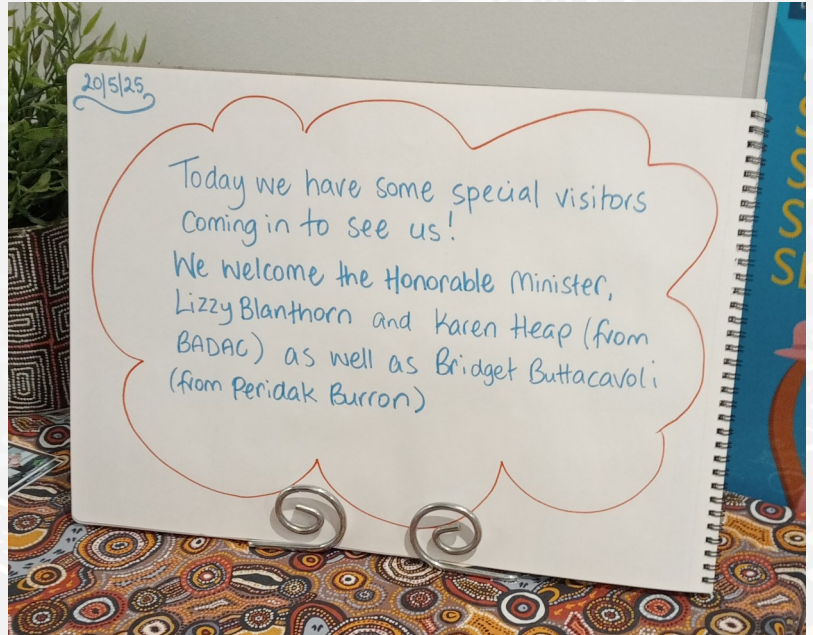
Elsie (4) , Rubi (10) and Milla (9) - Their Artwork was called "Cuzzies" which represents all the cousins in the family.

Billie—with her artwork called "Bird", which was an amazing drawing of a beautiful yellow bird.



STATE BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT

On Tuesday 20th May, we were excited to welcome Lizzie Blandthorn, Minister for Children & Disability to our Yirram Burron Early Years centre. Lizzie was there to announce \$30 million for Aboriginal children & families, including \$25 million to support Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) support Aboriginal children with culturally appropriate care plus \$5 million to increase funding for Aboriginal kinders.



“It will support us in what we need to be doing for the future of our families and children,” BADAC CEO Karen Heap said.

“It’s fantastic to be able to make sure Aboriginal children are taken care of, we like to see them here for the long term. It’s really important to start early with education and it gets them ready for primary school”

*as written in the Ballarat Times by Miriam Litwin



WADA WARR BORRELA



Wada Warr Borrela is a semi-supported living centre for the elderly, located at 5-7 Porter St, Bakery Hill, featuring six single-bed and two double-bed self-contained, semi-furnished units. Residents at Wada Warr Borrela receive two meals a day from Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. The centre provides access to common spaces and facilities, general maintenance, and covers the costs of electricity, water, and internet services. We also offer support for urgent needs, transportation assistance, when possible, scheduled activities, and additional help as required.

At Wada Warr Borrela, we encourage self-determination and independence among our residents. We strive to support them in living as they choose, providing assistance only when needed or requested.

Wada Warr Borrela is a culturally rich environment with a strong sense of community, celebrating indigenous heritage.



Michael Hetherington – Wada Warr Borrela Centre manager



Jade Hetherington – Wada Warr Borrela Aboriginal Health Worker

Living at the Aboriginal Elderly Living Centre has been a wonderful experience. From the start, I felt welcomed by a community that values our culture and traditions.

The staff are exceptional—professional, attentive, and genuinely caring. They listen to our stories and ensure we feel included and respected.

- Uncle Jason Kennedy



Every town should have a place for elders to live and enjoy their community. The Indigenous staff are caring and supportive, always listening to us elders. We truly feel like one big family. The location allows us to maintain our independence, with everything conveniently close, including my art studio.

- Uncle Ted Laxton

If you would like further information on Wada Warr Borrela and the application process, please get in contact with Centre Manager Michael Hetherington on 03 53315344 or email michaelh@badac.net.au

The poster features a stylized black and white line drawing of a landscape with a large, multi-lobed plant in the foreground, a small fish swimming in a pond, and a circular logo in the top left corner. The logo contains a bowl of food and the text 'Connected Beginnings' and 'Wularung Country'. The main title 'Tummy Time' is in a large, white, cursive font on a black background. A central text box contains the event details, and a bottom text box provides contact information.

NAIDOC WEEK

Tummy Time

Do you have a bub 0-18 months?
Come and join Sarah, Cass and Ashleigh
for a 10 minute tummy time session. The
children can lay down, sing songs, play
with toys and have a big stretch.

Email Cass - chood@badac.net.au

with these details: NAIDOC tummy time session, name, bubs name and age.
e.g. NAIDOC tummy time session | Ashleigh - Lyra, 17 months

UPCOMING EVENT

JNR

NAIDOC DISCO

FRIDAY 27TH JUNE

STARTS AT

6PM

FINISHES AT

8PM

**OPEN
TO
AGES
5-12**

**PRIMARY
SCHOOL
STUDENTS
ONLY**

ST ALIPIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL

**106-108 VICTORIA ST,
BALLARAT EAST**

DRESS TO IMPRESS!!!



Ballarat and District
Aboriginal
Co-operative Ltd

UPCOMING EVENT

BADAC YOUTH PRESENTS



REGISTER
CHILDREN
HERE

SAVE THE
DATE!!!

SNR NAIDOC GALA BALL

**FRIDAY JUNE 13TH.
DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM
FINISH AT 10:30PM
MINING EXCHANGE -
16 LYDIARD STREET**

SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS ONLY

SPECIAL GUESTS IN
ATTENDANCE.

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Federation
University

Speech Pathology
Clinic (FSPC)

Nurturing communication and achieving goals together

Federation Speech Pathology Clinic (FSPC) provides services to the wider community. Appointments are run with Speech Pathology Students under supervision of a qualified Speech Pathologist.



What we can look at

- Articulation
- Language
- Phonological awareness
- Dyslexia
- Stuttering
- Difficulties to express yourself socially

What we can help with

- Problems with pronunciation
- Early literacy skills
- Language skills and social communication
- Understanding sound

Paediatric Services are available with our Speech Pathology team.

Telehealth optional.

Federation University – BADAC

Service available two days a week at BADAC.

Phone: (03) 8780 5762

Email: fspc_mthelen@federation.edu.au

Website: [Federation allied healthcare - Federation University Australia](https://www.federationalliedhealthcare.com.au)

Children's Speech Pathology Clinic



Ballarat and District
Aboriginal
Co-operative Ltd



Conditions we can work with

- Stroke
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Dementia
- Progressive Disorders
e.g., Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis
- Cancer
e.g., Head & Neck, Brain Tumors
- Voice disorders

What we can work on

- Speech clarity
- Voice quality
- Swallowing
- Social Communication skills
- Understanding what others say
- Getting your message across to others

Services are available
Wednesday Mornings at BADAC.

Paediatric Services also available at the clinic.
Telehealth optional.

Adult Speech Pathology Clinic



Ballarat and District
Aboriginal
Co-operative Ltd

YARNING CIRCLE



Social & Emotional Welbeing

Yarn



Come along for a cuppa, in a safe
and welcoming environment



Every Friday 12-3pm (no referral needed)
above BADAC Medical
106 Armstrong Street Ballarat

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Be a part of our

Community



Are you interested in becoming a part of the leadership community group for connected beginnings ballaarat? Do you want to know more?

Contact Ashleigh on 0488 620 712 or 03 5335 6231

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

GROWING STRONG FAMILIES



*0-18 month olds
healthy bubbas program*

Thursdays 10:00am-11:00am

Yirram Burron Early Years Hub

111 Rubicon Street, Sebastopol, 3356



Carers Circle

Are you providing care to a young person?

**Come along and join us at our Carers Circle
Every Monday 10am-12pm
115 Beverin st. Sebastopol**

**For more information, please contact
Caitlin Thompson- Carer Facilitator 5331 5344**



STRENGTHENING CULTURAL CONNECTIONS



Strengthening Cultural Connections Training reflects a wide range of topics and information that non-Aboriginal carers need at an introductory level when caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children.

There are four modules of learning:

Module 1: Understanding Culture

Module 2: History of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Module 3: It's not all in the past – contemporary issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Module 4: Advocacy and your role as a carer

Date: Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 June

Location: Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd - 106-108
Armstrong Street Nth, Ballarat

Time: 9.30 am – 3.30 pm both days

To Register: Please contact Caitlin Thompson - cthompson@badac.net.au
or 0427 274 663

Delivered by: VACCA (Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency)

Carer Kafe



VACCA
Connected by culture



LOCAL JUSTICE WORKER

LOCAL JUSTICE WORKER PROGRAM

Supports the Local Justice Worker Provides

Community Corrections

Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men and Women to successfully complete their Community Correction Orders by;

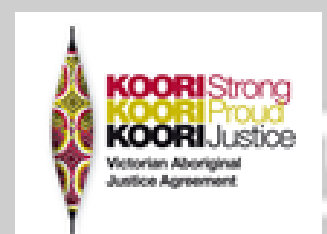
- Court Support
- Pre and Post Prison Release via Yawal Mugadjina Program
- Providing Community Work Activities
- Assistance to attend Community Corrections appointments such as Supervision, Mental Health, AOD, Rehab, Programs
- Referrals for Family Violence, Mental Health & AOD

Fines and Warrant Support – Sheriff of Victoria

Support Men and Women to address their outstanding Fines and Warrants by:

- Fines Days (Last Friday of the Month)
- Work Development Permit Scheme (WDP)
- Consult with Sheriff Aboriginal Liaison Officer and Sheriff Officers
- Payment Plans/Reviews/Family Violence Scheme

The Local Justice Worker helps provide a Cultural Safe support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the correction system by providing opportunities to strengthen their cultural identity and increase their connection to family, community and Country.



We're closed
for the King's
Birthday Public
Holiday

**Monday
June 9th**

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative is committed to providing safety and wellbeing for all children and young people within our community and those engaged in our services. BADAC has a zero tolerance for any form of child abuse including sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, cultural abuse, and neglect, and promotes a child safe environment to maintain and enhance children and young people's wellbeing.

BADAC understands our responsibilities and statutory duty of care to comply with both the Victorian Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme and will uphold these obligations to ensure the safety of children and young people within the community.

BADAC staff will ensure that children and young people are listened to and empowered to act on any concerns they have. We will include children, young people and families in discussions that affect their lives.

We are committed to ongoing professional development for employees to maintain their ability to respond to situations of abuse and neglect. All BADAC staff and volunteers are required to hold an active Working with Children's Check and are required to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with our Child Safe Policy.

If you have a concern you wish to raise, would like to discuss anything further or need to make a formal complaint, please contact:

Chief of Governance and Human Resources on **5331 5344** or email **HRG@badac.net.au**

Alternatively, you may lodge a concern at the Commission for Children and Young People on **1300 78 29 78** (9.30–11.30am and 2.00–4.00pm Monday to Friday, except on public holidays) or email: **contact@ccyp.vic.gov**.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

BADAC supports the health and wellbeing of the Ballarat and District Aboriginal community with a range of holistic services, including:

BADAC Services

- BADAC Medical Clinic
- Koorie Family Services
- Stronger Families
- Integrated Family Services
- Kinship Care
- Aboriginal Family Lead Decision Making (AFLDM)
- Early Years Learning
- Home and Community Support
- Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Support
- Social & Emotional Wellbeing Program
- Justice Support
- Family Violence Support
- Social Worker
- Youth Groups
- Cultural Outings and Camps
- Stolen Generations Support
- Playgroup

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT ABORIGINAL
CO-OPERATIVE

P.O. Box 643

Ballarat VIC 3350

106-108 Armstrong St North

Ballarat VIC 3350

T: (03) 5331 5344

E: reception@badac.net.au



Have you changed your Address

OR

want your newsletter delivered via email?

**If so please let reception know either by dropping in or
giving us a call (03) 5331 5344.**

**You can also email Reception at:
reception@badac.net.au**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

SERVICE	CONTACT
Triple Zero—For help in an emergency, contact Fire, Police or Ambulance	000
Kids Helpline—Offers 24/7 mental health support for young people aged 5-25	1800 551 800
SuicideLine Victoria—24/7 counselling service for those effected by suicide	1300 651 251
Parentline—Counselling, information & referral service for parents and carers of children aged 0-18yrs	13 22 89
Grampians Health Mental Health Services—24/7 support for advice, access and triage	1300 247 647
Yarning Safe 'N' Strong—Culturally safe and confidential help line available 24/7	1800 959 563
Direct Line—Drug & Alcohol counselling, information & referral service available 24/7	1800 888 236
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service—Provides community justice and legal practice services	1800 064 865
Nurse-On-Call—24/7 service that provides expert health advice from a registered nurse	1300 606 024
Maternal and Child Health Line—Information, advice and referrals for families with young children available 24/7	13 22 29
Gambler's Help—Support service for people affected by gambling	1800 858 858
National Debt Hotline—A confidential & independent financial information service	1800 007 007
Lifeline—24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention service	13 11 14
The Orange Door— Provides family violence support 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Outside of these hours, contact Safe Steps for support and referrals 24/7	1800 219 819 1800 015 188

BADAC SERVICES (BUSINESS HOURS ONLY)	CONTACT
Main Reception	5331 5344, opt #9
Medical Reception including Maternal Child Health	5331 5344, opt #2
Family Violence	5331 5344, opt #9
Social & Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB)	5331 5344, opt #3
Cultural & Therapeutic Support including Youth Services	5331 5344, opt #9
Koorie Family Services	5331 5344, opt #9
Home & Community Care including NDIS	5331 5344, opt #9
Gobata Burron	5331 5344, opt #9

If you wish to speak to someone specifically, please let reception know so that they can direct your call appropriately. If the staff member is not available, a message will be taken for them to return your call.