



# Platypus Tracks Spring Edition 2025



Ballarat and District  
Aboriginal  
Co-operative Ltd



## **In this Issue**

## **Page**

From our Chairperson	3
From our CEO	4
Perridak Burrton & Yaluk Early Learning	6
Yirram Burrton Early Learning & KPSA	7
Connected Beginnings	8
Bengadak Babab Playgroup	9
Upcoming Events	10
Medical Clinic Updates	12
NAIDOC Senior Ball	14
NAIDOC Junior Ball	15
NAIDOC Award Nominees & Winners	16
NAIDOC Flag Raising	18
NAIDOC Community Day	20
Perridak Arts	22
Community Information	23
Uncle Ted Laxton—Pitcha Makin Fellas	24
Community Information	25
Upcoming Events	26
Upcoming Events	28
Community Information	30
Carers Circle	32
BADAC Closures	33
Local Justice Worker	34
Community Information	36
Child Safety Statement	38
BADAC Information	39
Important Numbers	40

***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.

NAIDOC week—The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy. It was great to see so many of the next generation represent throughout NAIDOC week at the range of community events that were held. Our Flag raising to kick the week off, was probably one of the biggest crowds we have seen in years (the sunshine may have helped). The collaboration between 3 organisations is great to see and hopefully can continue many years into the future. Of course the Baarlinjaan Dance group is always a highlight for many.

The weather wasn't as kind to us for the NAIDOC community day, but been at the new venue of Ballarat High, this helped keep most safe from the weather. It was great to see the stalls, activities & food all in the one space and community enjoying themselves catching up with each other.

I thank the Board Members for their continued support again this year and for attending our monthly meetings. A reminder that the Annual General Meeting will be happening in November. A 'Save the date' flyer is further on in this edition. Information regarding the AGM will be sent out to all members late October/early November.

If you have the time, please help BADAC improve their services & programs by giving us feedback on your experience. Either scan the QR code or enter the web address into your browser.

I hope you all manage to enjoy some of the Spring sunshine over the coming months.

Regards,

Larry Kanoa

Chairperson



<https://forms.office.com/r/czDEjEkZWY>



# FROM OUR CEO—KAREN HEAP

Hi everyone,

Spring is here at last and I hope you all plan to get outdoors and enjoy this lovely season with community, family and friends.

## **NAIDOC Week 2025**

What a fantastic NAIDOC 2025! A big thank you to everyone for coming and helping to make our NAIDOC week such a vibrant community celebration.

It was great to begin the week with the community Flag Raising event, and to see so many Elders, youth, children, community and visitors. We had more people attend BADAC's Flag Raising than ever before. This was a partnership event between BADAC, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and City of Ballarat. The popular walk to the cemetery was very well-attended, followed by our community lunch.

I have had such great feedback about BADAC's Community Fun Day at Ballarat High School, with everyone calling it an outstanding success. We estimate at least 3,000 people attended.

I want to give a big shout out to the venue, to the BADAC staff who worked tirelessly to make it a great day, to all our fabulous stallholders, to our community partners, to the many non-Aboriginal people who celebrate with us, and of course, a huge thanks to all of you, our Aboriginal community.



## **Crisis Accommodation project for Aboriginal women and children**

This significant federally-funded BADAC project is well underway with the purchase of a large block of suitable land. The housing plans feature cultural elements as an integral part of the design, in order that tenants feel welcome and at home.

## **Victorian Children & Families Sector Forum – Panel at the MCG**

I was honoured to be invited to present as a panel member for the above forum, which attracted 100 people from the sector.

The panel of speakers included Minister Lizzie Blandthorn; Deb Tsorbaris, CEO Centre of Excellence in Child and Family Welfare; Peta McCammon, Secretary, Department of Families, Fairness & Housing (DFFH); and Karen Heap, CEO Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative.

The panel addressed specific issues in each presentation and answered questions from the sector. I spoke about issues for Aboriginal children in Out of Home Care, and how the government and sector can best support Aboriginal children, families and carers in that process, so that fewer Aboriginal children are taken into care.

Attendees included government, agencies, community services and ACCOs.

## **Aboriginal Children's Forum, Bairnsdale**

The Aboriginal Children's Forum brings together ACCOs, community organisations and government to promote the safety, health and resilience of vulnerable Aboriginal children and young people.

The Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement, Wungurilwil Gagapduir, aims to reduce the number of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care by building their connection to Culture, Country and Community.

The Forum also aligns with Closing the Gap targets and the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework (VAAF) priorities and indicators.

## **Gariwerd Governance Committee, Grampians Health (Ballarat Base hospital)**

I sit on the Gariwerd Governance Committee, which includes the CEO and Board Chairperson, to help ensure better access to the hospital for Aboriginal people.

Recent discussions include dental health, Koorie maternal health, and culturally appropriate access to dialysis and other treatments.

## **Aboriginal Health Forum coming to Ballarat early September**

As I write, BADAC is busy planning for our hosting of this significant statewide health sector forum.

Two Victorian Ministers, Minister Stitt and Minister Thomas, are planning to attend, along with state government health departments and ACCOs.

Together we will look at ways to move forward with culturally safe care in hospitals, Aboriginal health, and Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB).



### **Aboriginal Housing Forum**

Shu Brown, Chief of Culture, PR & Engagement, and Brandon Green, Manager Cultural & Therapeutic Supports Program, represented BADAC at this August forum. BADAC is currently working on positioning ourselves to be able to apply for Victorian government Big Housing Build funding when it opens for application.

### **October Twilight Market**

Don't miss the BADAC October Twilight Market! Thursday 23 October, 2025, 5pm-8pm.

In response to massive community demand after the runaway success of BADAC's 2024 pre-Christmas night market, BADAC will hold an October Twilight market.

Come and get ready for Christmas with handmade arts and crafts and cultural items for sale. Support your local community and local Aboriginal artists, while picking up a unique present or two or something delightful to decorate the house. It will be a fun night with stalls, food trucks, raffles and more.

We are seeking people from community to register to sell their arts and crafts, everything from hand-made soaps to knitted goods and cultural items.

To register your interest and find out more, please contact Erin Kanoa on [ekanoa@badac.net.au](mailto:ekanoa@badac.net.au).

### **Difficult economic times – Fresh food Hampers and Foodbank available.**



I want to finish by saying that we know that many people are finding it tough at the moment.

BADAC has fresh food hampers available every week (Thursdays & Fridays)— if you need a food hamper come and put your name down at our Main Reception. Its fine to grab a hamper every couple of weeks, or come every week if needed. You will need to register with Main Reception. We also have access to FoodBank on Thursdays for our community, which is like a supermarket except you can take what you need for free. Please also register for this program with Main Reception staff.

BADAC is here to support you. Please do let us know if you

need extra help. We know that many of our community are struggling during this economic climate.

Please do not feel hesitant about asking for help! Knowing numbers for people needing food hampers or other assistance helps us to apply for government funding for our programs.

Kind regards and take care,

Karen Heap





# PERRIDAK BURRON EARLY LEARNING

Our Parrwang Mob have been super busy during Term 3 so far. We have ventured out to The Ballarat Library to engage in all the deadly activities celebrating Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on August the 4th. The bus was a real highlight for our burron, also were able to make some hairy Echidnas using grass seeds and stockings.

Perridak community as a whole have been thriving in their learning environments, with lots of special events happening over the past few months. We have celebrated NAIDOC, Aboriginal Children's Day & Science Week. Our Kuwiyn mob have been busy learning about through investigation, all things *Warrie* (Ocean), and the constellations that form the Emu in the Sky.

Our young mobs have been busy exploring all things sensory, from water, to sand, doughs, anything that can be manipulated! We are so excited for the coming months and what the remainder of the year will bring.



# YALUK BURRON EARLY LEARNING

## Celebrating Culture, Seasons, and Community at Yaluk Burron

This term at Yaluk Burron Early Learning Centre, our children have been immersed in a range of meaningful experiences that celebrate culture, creativity, and community.

We were honoured to welcome Boon Wurrung Elder **Aunty Fay Stewart-Muir** as part of our NAIDOC Week celebrations. She shared her beautiful book *Country and Family* and gifted each child two bilingual books, which they proudly tucked into their own hand-painted book bags. Her visit was a truly special way to connect with this year's NAIDOC theme: *The Next Generation Strength, Vision & Legacy*.

Children also explored the powerful symbols of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags through watercolour painting, combining art and culture in a hands-on, reflective experience. Earlier in the term, we marked **National Reconciliation Week** with sensory play, cooking, and a handprint mural activity that sparked meaningful conversations about belonging and connection to Country.

We also celebrated **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day** with a visit from George and Sarah from *Stepping Stones Storytime*. Children enjoyed a selection of stories, and each received a book and activity bag, generously supported by Steptoe's Op Shop.

Alongside these cultural events, we embraced the beauty of the season with a centre-wide **autumn theme**. The children created autumn trees, murals, and self-portraits, supporting their fine motor skills, creativity, and sense of identity. Through storytelling, art, nature, and shared experiences, we continue to support our children in taking little footsteps toward a big, inclusive future.



Painting the bark on National Reconciliation Week



# YIRRAM BURRON EARLY LEARNING

Ngurra Wurriyn!

Our cohort of learners at Yirram Burron continue to amaze us with their curiosity, creativity and joy for learning. Some of our recent highlights have been - making our collaborative banner during Reconciliation Week with burron, families, educators and the Connected Beginnings team, learning about Australian animals, planting vegetable and herb gardens, Science Week experiments, and beginning Ngarrwa Dja (Bush Kinder). We have been having a deadly time!

We are proud to share the self-portraits created by our burron during NAIDOC celebrations. We focused on the theme of STRENGTH, where burron were invited to create self-portraits that reflect what makes them special. These self-portraits are works of art with strong meanings behind them and hang with pride on our wall.



## BUPOP BALAK WAYIPUNGANG (KPSA)

Our engagement with kindergarten services continues to strengthen as we work hand in hand to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture into their programs.

Recently, I have the pleasure of participating in an insightful information session with Best Start Moorabool Shire and several other partners. The event aimed to provide valuable resources and strategies for educators on how to integrate cultural elements into their kindergarten services effectively.

One of the highlights of the session was the hands-on activity where participants created gum nut babies. This engaging exercise not only fostered creativity but also helped educators connect with Indigenous stories and cultural practices, enriching the learning experience for young children.



As we move forward, we are committed to supporting kindergarten services in their journey to create inclusive environments that celebrate diversity and culture. By continuing to collaborate with local partners, we aim to provide ongoing professional development and resources that empower educators to champion cultural awareness in their classrooms.



# CONNECTED BEGINNINGS

Our CB team has been working to support our families through connection to health services, NDIS supports and paediatrician appointments.

Sarah (*Health and Education Officer*) has been able to attend a few appointments with families to help advocate and support, in providing the correct information to the health worker and understanding the outcomes of the appointment. Always reach out if you need a support person with you on your child/ren's health journeys – with no shame.

Over the past few months, we have continued to get out and about at community events to meet new families and develop partnerships with deadly supports out there. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day event held at Ballarat Library, was a good few hours where children danced, sang and participated in a variety of art activities. If you have any feedback about the event, please call Natalee on 5335 6231 or email [nhumphrey@badac.net.au](mailto:nhumphrey@badac.net.au).

Our team attended the launch of the City of Ballarat Baby Sleep and Settling videos. Information on settling and the videos are accessible via their website or visit Parent Place on Tuesday mornings for more information.

Ashleigh and Sarah went and had a tour of the Foodbank centre. It is an inviting space where you can complete your shopping and grab yourself a hot coffee and meal – all food is made on site. Anyone can access, if your family needs their services it is located at 3 Soho Road, Mitchell Park.

Shout out to our families for participating in our midyear interview videos. Aunty Deb and Irene, we value your input and are so happy we get to be a part of your little ones early years journey – The CB Team wishes you the best for what's to come for this year and next year!



Irene

Aunty Deb



Children's Day

## Connected Beginnings Upcoming Events:

- School information night (November, date to be confirmed) School enrolments, zoning, KESO and other connection support for school, come and have a yarn.
- Kindergarten information day (location to be confirmed) Enrol for 3-year-old kinder next year, zoning booklet, fun to be had for all.
- BADAC Twilight Market, hosting a stall.
- Sisters Day Out Event in Ballarat . We will be hosting a stall, come have a yarn.
- SNAICC Early Years Conference in Meanjin/Brisbane

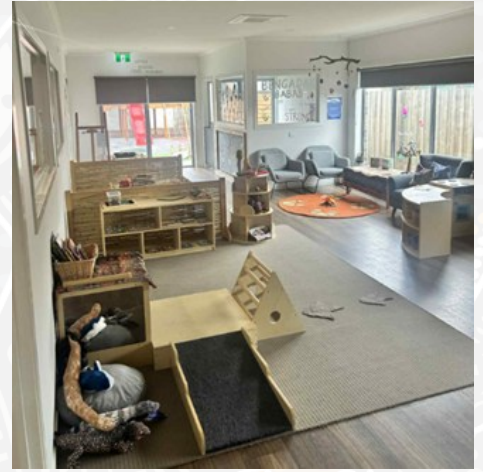


# BENGECDK BABAB PLAYGROUP

This term the children have been expressing themselves through art – learning how to use their own hands to create animal tracks and other symbols. They've done some cooking, bush tomato scones and lemon myrtle biscuits.

On Country the children made their own message sticks – Too deadly you mob! The Murnong room at Yirram Burron Hub has been changed, so come and check out the new space where our children play and families yarn in a Culturally safe environment.

111 Rubicon Street Sebastopol – Mondays & Friday 10.30am-12.30pm



Here is the recipe for some Lemon Myrtle biscuits we made at Playgroup

## Ingredients:

- 2 cups (260g) self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon dried lemon myrtle
- 180g butter, softened
- 1/2 cup (125g) caster sugar
- 1 beaten egg

## Method:

- Preheat oven to 180 degrees Celsius
- Sift flour and dried lemon myrtle into a bowl, then rub in the butter until it resembles breadcrumbs
- Add sugar and beaten egg mix into a stiff dough, turn out onto a floured surface and knead gently until smooth
- Wrap in plastic wrap and chill in the fridge for about 30 minutes
- Roll out onto a floured surface about 5mm thick and cut into about 30 biscuits
- Place on a greased baking tray and place in oven for about 12—15 minutes.



# UPCOMING EVENT

Connected Beginnings

Wadawurrung Country

**SAVE THE DATE**  
MORE INFO TO COME

## FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY **KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 1ST 2025

### WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

- Learn the benefits of attending kinder.
- What your child will get up to at kindergarten/preschool
- Enrolment process and assistance
- Meet wayipungitj officer – koorie preschool support
- Meet teachers and other supports

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CALL THE CB TEAM:  
(03) 5335 6231



# UPCOMING EVENT



# SCHOOL INFO NIGHT



## BADAC TREE ROOM

106 Armstrong Street North,  
Ballarat Central,  
3350



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT (03) 5335 6231



# MEDICAL UPDATE

## Health Alerts -

- There is an increased risk of respiratory illnesses in the winter months.
- Keeping up to date with vaccinations is the best way to reduce the risk of getting seriously ill.
- The following immunisations are available at BADAC
  - Cold / flu.
  - COVID-19.
  - RSV.

To make a vaccination appointment, or to check if you are eligible for any booster vaccinations, please contact medical reception.

## Aboriginal Health Assessments -

### KEEP YOUR MIND AND BODY HEALTHY AND STRONG WITH AN ABORIGINAL HEALTH CHECK.

All Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander patients are eligible for an Aboriginal health check.

It is a good way to look after your health and wellbeing, and to keep your mind and body healthy and strong.

Upon completion of your Aboriginal Health Check, you will receive a \$30.00 gift voucher.

Eligibility criteria - 1 every 9 months.

Call the clinic today to check eligibility and to book your appointment.

## Afterhours clinics -

Since commencing on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, BADAC's afterhours clinics continue to remain strong. Thank-you to the medical team for your support and assistance!

We have created an additional 351 appointments to Ballarat & Districts Aboriginal community.

Clinic hours -

- Monday/Tuesday/Thursday: 9:00 - 20:00
- Wednesday: 09:00 - 17:00
- Friday: 09:00 - 16:00

To make a Doctors appointment, please contact medical reception.

We would like to congratulate Dr. Dhakshineswary Prasanna, Dr. Mealear Sar & Dr. Nazmin Sultana for passing their Royal College of General-Practitioner Examinations. Well-done!

## New and existing staff -

We would like to welcome to the medical team.

- Dr. Nazmin Sultana (Doctor).
- Dr. Lakshman Doddamani (Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician).

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

- Dr. Mealear Sar.

We are very appreciative of all the connections, assistance, and care Dr. Mealear has provided to Ballarat & Districts Aboriginal community. Very hard shoes to fill - You will be missed!

## Connected Beginnings -

The medical clinic is working with Perridak Burrton Early Learning Centre to improve the school readiness of Ballarat's Aboriginal children aged 0 - 5 years.

Today's children, tomorrows Elders. As part of this program, we have introduced the following Specialists and Allied Health services.

- Dr. Lakshman Doddamani (Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician).
- Adult and youth Speech Pathology services through Federation University.



# MEDICAL UPDATE

## **Podiatry / Diabetes Education -**

Emma is taking new appointments for Podiatry and Diabetes Education.

Emma works -

- Tuesday: 17:00 - 20:00
- Every second Friday: 09:00 - 16:00

To make an appointment, please call medical reception.

## **Maternal Child Health -**

Jeandanielle (JD) is BADAC's new Maternal Child Health Nurse.

BADAC's Maternal Child Health helps provide better health outcomes for Ballarat & Districts Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families.

**During pregnancy** - Our McHN staff are available to meet with you at any time to discuss your pregnancy needs.

**Post birth** - Starting with an initial home visit, we will provide all key ages and stages child health and development assessment recommended in your child's green health record book.

**Ongoing support** - During your child growth and development, we are here for you and your family, and can assist with - childhood immunisation, referrals to allied health services, and playgroup.

JD works Tuesday & Wednesday - 09:00 - 17:00



Dr. Lakshman Doddamani

Neurodevelopmental Paediatrician



Dr. Nazmin Sultana

Doctor

## **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 9 September or 7 October 2025**

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

Enjoy some time yarnning 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**





# NAIDOC 2025 SENIOR BALL

NAIDOC Week was a truly memorable time for our youth, kicking off with our very first Youth NAIDOC Gala Ball - an event exclusively for our high school students.

We were thrilled to welcome over 100 young people who came together to celebrate culture, community, and connection in a respectful and joyful way. The energy and pride in the room were inspiring, and the evening was made even more special by a guest appearance from Isaac Compton, whose presence was a real highlight.

We can't thank our amazing young attendees enough for their respect, spirit, and enthusiasm throughout the night. This was a powerful way to start our NAIDOC Week





# NAIDOC 2025 JUNIOR BALL

## Junior NAIDOC Disco: A Deadly Night for Our Little Legends

Our Junior NAIDOC Disco was another massive hit, this time for our younger kids—and what a night it was! The dance floor was full of deadly moves, big smiles, and plenty of catch-ups with friends and family.

It was amazing to see so many of our little ones dressed to impress and having an absolute blast. Events like this aren't just about fun (though there was plenty of that!)—they're also about building strong connections and encouraging our young ones to get involved in our programs and community.

We're so proud of every kid who came along and made the night such a success. Here's to more moments like this!





# NAIDOC AWARDS



**Dominic Delpol**  
JNR Sports Award



**Zara Walsh**  
JNR Sports Award

**Charlie Clarke**  
SNR Sports Award



**Mia Peverill**  
SNR Sports Award

**Rachel Wandin**  
JNR Personal Growth  
Award



**Taya Pearce**  
SNR Personal Growth  
Award



**Louie Bell**  
JNR Education Award

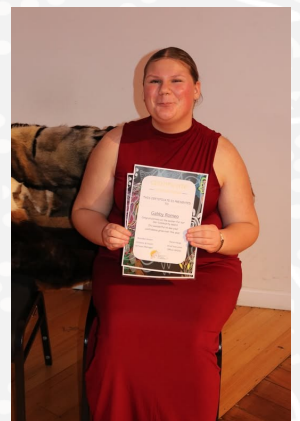
**Iris Chettleburgh**  
JNR Education Award



**Marley Kennedy Slater**  
SNR Education Award



**Gabby Romeo**  
SNR Community Award



## Absent from photos:

Luke Atkinson—SNR Personal Growth

Jaxon—JNR Personal Growth

Junior Ford—SNR Community Award

Cody Collins-Lester—SNR Education Award



# NAIDOC AWARDS



**Jack McPhan**  
JNR Community Award



**Holly Haby**  
JNR Community Award



**Izaiah Sperling**  
JNR Art Award



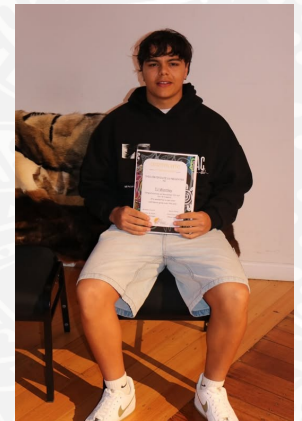
**Sophie Pearce**  
JNR Art Award



**Nioka Nalder**  
SNR Art Award



**Samuel Zakkam**  
Uncle Al Strong in  
Culture Award



**TJ Wortley**  
SNR Art Award



**Levi Payne**  
2025 Mr NAIDOC



**Evie Clarke**  
Uncle Al Strong  
in Culture Award



**Morgan Pike**  
2025 Miss NAIDOC

Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for an award in each category and to the overall winners.

You are all doing amazing things within the community—keep up the great work!!



# NAIDOC FLAG RAISING 2025

Another collaboration between BADAC, Waddawurrung Traditional Owners & City of Ballarat, saw another great turnout for our flag raising and walk to the Ballarat cemetery to kick off NAIDOC Week.

Thank you to all those who join us each year for this significant week and walking along side us!





# NAIDOC FLAG RAISING 2025





A collage of 15 photographs capturing various moments from a community event. The images show a man with a beard and a red dot on his chest speaking into a microphone; a man in a black and yellow outfit performing a dance; a man in a black hoodie playing a didgeridoo; a large crowd of people gathered in a hall; a man in a wheelchair being assisted; a young girl holding a certificate; a group of children holding certificates; a red and white truck with 'WADAWURNING' on the side; a bulldog wearing a blue and white vest; and several groups of people, including children and adults, posing for photos.

Thank you to all the stall holders for supporting the day and bringing such a great vibe.

20



# NAIDOC COMMUNITY DAY 2025





# PERRIDAK ARTS

Perridak Arts has now been operating for over two years!!

We have agreements with 80 First Nations Artist who live in and around the Ballarat region, or have connections to Ballarat.

We are proud to have reached our 2 year milestone and have given back well over \$150,000 to local First Nations Artist and Craftspeople.

Within our two years, we have seen Perridak Arts become known as a great tourist spot for visitors to Ballarat, and this has been helped by the Visitors Information Centre who continually boost our presence in the rea. We currently have our social media pages active, so please like and share our Facebook and Instagram pages where you can.

We have a full gallery with a lot of art and crafts coming through from community members. Our stock is forever changing so even if you've visited recently, make sure you pop in again soon to check out any new pieces that have arrived.

This year we will be participating in the local FOTO Biennale, 'Through a Cultural Lense', with several community members displaying their photography. The event runs from 23rd August—19th October. Make sure you visit the gallery to see the beautiful display on show and support our community members.

There is now a regular stock of 'Acknowledgement to Country' plaques designed by Shu Brown in the gallery. These are available for \$15. Wouldn't it be great to see these at all schools & local businesses around Ballarat and the surrounding areas!



The Perridak Arts team had a great day out at the NAIDOC community day. It's always a pleasure seeing community and our next generation having fun and enjoying the moments that bring us together. We look forward to seeing you all again at the Twilight Market on October.



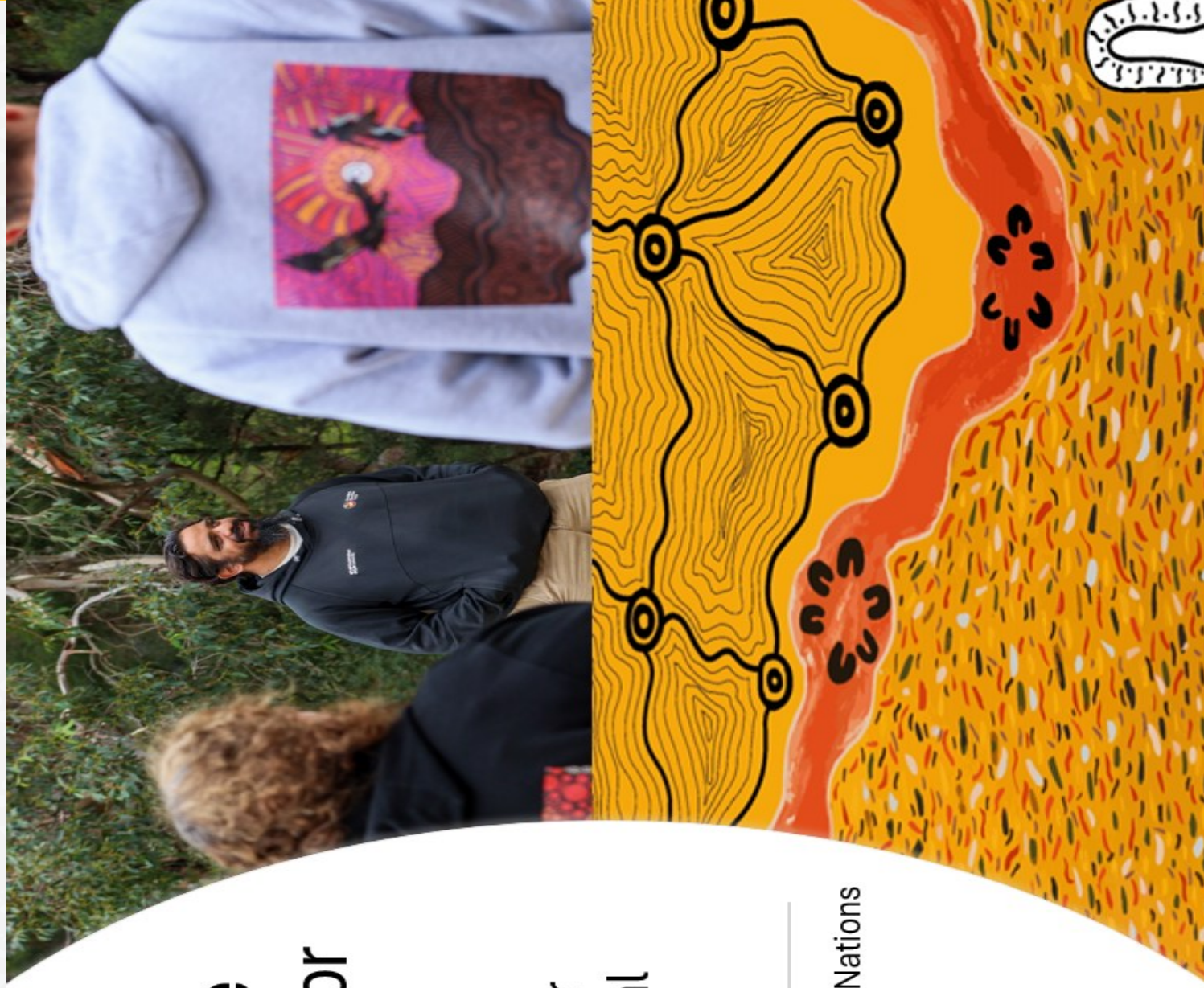


# Looking to learn more culture and prepare for the workforce?

Enrolments are now open for  
the Certificate II Mumgu-dhal  
tyama-tiyt

We have employers ready with jobs for First Nations  
People who complete the Certificate II!

Information session will be held Friday 29<sup>th</sup>  
August at SMB Building B – Lydiard Street  
Ballarat – Free lunch and a \$50 gift card for  
all First Nations People who attend





# UNCLE TED LAXTON—PITCHA MAKIN' FELLAS

Uncle Ted is a well-known and respected community member and has lived in and around the Ballarat region for over 20 years.

We wanted to highlight Uncle Ted's involvement with the Pitcha Makin' Fellas and share his story with the wider community.

## **How long have you been interested in art, and what got you involved?**

I had never been particularly interested in art until I attended a men's outing in 2013. We were invited to an art session, where I met a gentleman named Peter Widmar. He introduced us to the art stamping process and taught us how to create our own art pieces.

## **How long have you been a part of the Pitcha Makin' Fellas?**

I have been a member of the Pitcha Makin Fellas for the past 12 years. It all started with seven of us.

## **How many members are there, how often do you meet, and how have you seen the program evolve?**

These days, it's mostly just me. Over the years, some members have had to drop out due to life changes. Occasionally, a few may come in, but it's not often enough. We used to meet every Monday from 11 AM to 2 PM, but as the program grew, we shifted our start time to 10 AM and extended our meetings to 3 PM. Some of us had little experience in painting, while others had more, but over time, we learned so much that we began collaborating on pieces, which really took off. Our first workshop was with a primary school where we displayed the students' artwork for their parents and guardians. From there, job opportunities started to come in, and Peter helped us find work.



## **What has been your favourite project?**

It's hard to choose! I don't have a single favourite project, but with all the projects I've participated in, I always feel a great sense of pride and satisfaction knowing that I was a part of each one.

## **How can community members get involved?**

Anyone interested is welcome to join us. We are located at the old Post Office on Lydiard Street North, specifically in the old art room, with the entry point located near the taxi rank. Uncle Ted is there on Mondays from 10 AM to 12 PM.

Uncle Ted with a painting of his Mother.



SAVE THE DATE



# **IMPORTANT** **ANNOUNCEMENT**

BADAC Annual General  
Meeting (AGM)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November,  
2025

BBQ dinner from 5pm.

All registered members  
welcome



UPCOMING EVENT

**DEADLY DADS DAY**

**5TH OF SEP**

**11AM - 2PM**

**CHANCES TO WIN!!  
RAFFLES TO BE DRAWN  
THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

**CALLING ALL YOU FELLAS OUT THERE, TO JOIN  
US AT 403 MAIN RD TO CONNECT, YARN AND  
CELEBRATE FATHERS DAY.**

**LUNCH PROVIDED - BBQ, KANGAROO STEW & RABBIT STEW.**

**ACTIVITIES - POOL TABLE, TABLE TENNIS TABLE, WOOD WORK  
AND TALKS THROUGH OUT THE DAY FROM BADAC STAFF.**

**GIFT PACKS AND A TEE FOR EVERYONE WHO COMES ALONG.**



# UPCOMING EVENT



**Where: Tree Room  
BADAC**

**When: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>  
September**

**11AM - 1PM**

**Lunch Provided**



Take a break, come down  
and have a yarn, a great  
way to find out what  
BADAC has to offer.

**WEAR A SPLASH OF  
YELLOW**





UPCOMING EVENT



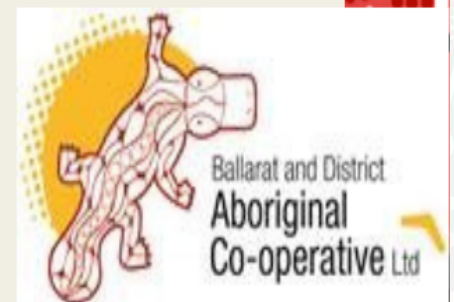
WEAR A SPLASH OF  
YELLOW OR ORANGE

**SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
DAY  
10<sup>TH</sup>**

**SEPTEMBER**

**A DAY TO REMEMBER THOSE  
WE'VE LOST.**

**LAKE ESMOND & 403 MAIN  
RD, GOLDEN POINT  
10AM - 2PM**





# UPCOMING EVENT

10AM -MEET AT LAKE ESMOND

10:15 - WELCOME TO COUNTRY

10:30 - WALK OF REMEMBRANCE

11:00 11:15 - GUM LEAVES

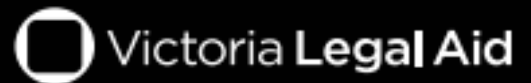
12:00 - MAIN RD BBQ LUNCH

FIRE WILL BE GOING FOR MOB.

BREAK OUT SPACES IF YOU NEED SOME TIME TO  
YOURSELF OR YOU NEED A CHAT



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION



# 1300 MOB VLA

**Need help with a legal problem?**

finances • Centrelink • money worries  
family issues • going to court

**Get legal help**

Call Victoria Legal Aid's First Nations Legal Helpline

**1300 662 852**

**[www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)**

For First Nations led legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Victoria, contact:

**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service**

1800 064 865

[www.vals.org.au](http://www.vals.org.au)

**Djirra**

1800 105 303

[www.djirra.org.au](http://www.djirra.org.au)



Artwork *Kinaway tar-wan* by Bitja (Dixon Patten Jnr)  
VALF\_OI\_PNG\_0025





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T W I L I G H T

# STREET

M A R K E T

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**WE'RE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE  
BADAC STREET MARKET WILL BE BACK AGAIN  
THIS YEAR!!**

**THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER  
5PM-8PM**

**IF YOU ARE WISHING TO HOLD A STALL,  
PLEASE CONTACT ERIN KANOA -  
[EKANOA@BADAC.NET.AU](mailto:EKANOA@BADAC.NET.AU)  
\$10 PER STALL HOLDER**





# **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**





# BADAC CLOSURES

BADAC will be closed on  
Friday 26th September  
for the AFL Grand Final  
public holiday, and  
Tuesday 4th November  
for the Melbourne Cup  
Public holiday





# 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.

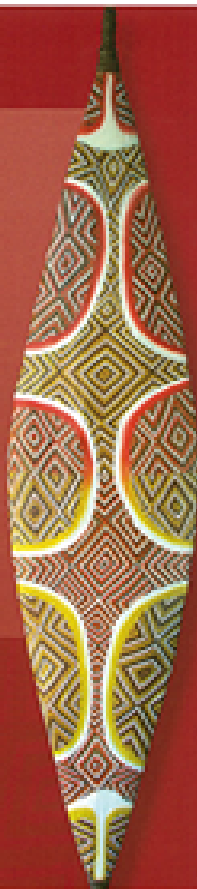




# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## COME AND JOIN US ON A FINES DAY!

A Sheriff's  
Aboriginal  
Liaison Officer  
(SALO) can  
help with your  
outstanding  
fines and  
warrants



A Sheriff's Aboriginal Liaison Officer (SALO) works with the Community to provide advice and help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a culturally safe manner with:

- Infringement fines and payment arrangements
- Options available to resolve outstanding fines
- Outstanding Sheriff's warrants

A SALO is not a Sheriff's Officer.

Come and have a chat with your friendly SALO Jessica Toy, and Local Justice Team Leader Cathy Rotumah, to help discuss your outstanding fines and infringements.

It's a no pressure environment that gives you the chance to sort out some issues you might be facing.

**When: 17th September, 15th October or 19th November.**

**Time: 11am - 1pm**

**Where: BADAC— 108 Armstrong Street Nth**

**Local Justice Team Leader**

**Cathy Rotumah (BADAC)**

**Ph: 0477 947 302**

**Email: [cward@badac.net.au](mailto:cward@badac.net.au)**

**Sheriffs Aboriginal Liaison Officer: AL9592**

**Jessica Toy (Grampians Region)**

**Ph: 0439 529 345**

**Email: [Jessica.toy@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jessica.toy@justice.vic.gov.au)**





March 2025

## Independent Family Advocacy and Support (IFAS)

### Service Overview

IFAS is a free, confidential and voluntary service assisting parents and primary carers who are involved in the early (pre-court) stages of Child Protection system.

IFAS advocates help parents and primary carers to navigate the Child Protection system, understand their rights and responsibilities, identify goals for their children's care, access additional support (including legal advice), and develop their self-advocacy skills. We can support clients to prepare for their engagement with Child Protection, and in some cases we can also directly advocate on their behalf, where clients are facing particular challenges and request this support.

IFAS Advocates do not provide advice but will support informed decision-making where implications of decisions are clearly outlined, including any potential impacts on their child(ren), the family and the actions of Child Protection.

This advocacy model supports people to speak up for themselves and have someone 'walk alongside' them as they navigate the Child Protection system.

Advocates will not share information without the consent of clients and likewise will not keep any information from clients.



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## Eligibility

IFAS works with people who:

- are parents or primary carers
- ~~have current involvement with Child Protection (at either the unborn report, investigation, or substantiation stage)~~
- have not been to court in relation to their current Child Protection case.

The clients must live or work in:

- northern, eastern or western Melbourne
- southern Melbourne (except Bayside Peninsula)
- greater Bendigo and Loddon region
- greater Ballarat and Central Highlands region
- greater Geelong and Barwon region
- Horsham, Warrnambool and the Wimmera south-west region.

IFAS welcomes referrals for all people meeting the above eligibility criteria. We target our more intensive support and advocacy to First Nations families, parents with an intellectual disability, families from a culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background, parents subject to an unborn report, and parents who experienced Child Protection involvement when they were children.

## Making a Referral

To make a referral you can contact IFAS on the number below or via email. If you are a worker making a referral please provide the person's name, preferred contact number and if it is safe to leave a message, that you have consent to make the referral and brief information about the persons concerns/needs.

Parents and primary carers are also welcome to self-refer.

**IFAS Phone Line:** 1800 849 200

**IFAS email:** [IFAScontact@vla.vic.gov.au](mailto:IFAScontact@vla.vic.gov.au)

## More information

For more information about how IFAS works, or to arrange an information session for your staff please contact Robyn Buchanan, Manager IFAS on

(03) 9093 3752 or [robyn.buchanan@vla.vic.gov.au](mailto:robyn.buchanan@vla.vic.gov.au)



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.