

Platypus Tracks

2023



Summer Edition

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***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

Hello Everyone,

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 Elder's past, present and emerging.

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM on Thursday 16th November. Those who attended enjoyed a BBQ beforehand followed by the meeting which was short and sweet—nearly a new record!

Our Board for the next year consists of:

Larry Kanoa—Chairperson

Brandon Green—Deputy Chairperson

Deb Callister—Secretary

Marjorie Pickford—Treasurer

Renee Bosworth—Director

Kylie Laxton—Director

Pauline Scott—Director

I would also like to thank outgoing member Ian Petty, for his years of service and the work he has done for the organisation. We wish him all the best with his future endeavours and I look forward to working with the new team in 2024.



Our Porter St build is coming along nicely with completion due the first few months of 2024.

I would like to thank Karen and all the staff at BADAC for your continued commitment to our community and providing the services you do. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year with your family and friends.

If you can, head along to our last community celebration of the year at the BADAC Christmas Tree event to be held at the Eastern Oval on Thursday 15th December. I look forward to seeing community gathering together again in 2024.

Stay safe.

Regards,

Larry Kanoa



# FROM OUR CEO—KAREN HEAP

Hi everyone,

**I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, Happy New Year.**

Our annual Christmas Tree event is happening on Friday 15 December. Please remember to put names of any children attending down at Main Rd reception to ensure we have a present for them. Our much-loved event will be fantastic - with music, jumping castles, popcorn, fairy floss, BBQ and more. I hope to see you all there.

## **Exciting new BADAC Projects**

This year BADAC delivered on several projects which are close to the hearts of BADAC and our Aboriginal community. These projects help to drive Aboriginal health and self-determination in our region.

Highlights include:

- Perridak Arts, our new Aboriginal Art gallery opened in April 2023
- Elders Independent Living Village nearing completion
- Our third Early Years Centre located in Ballan, expected to open in late 2023 / early 2024
- Keeping community safe with our new Public Intoxication Reform program

## **Perridak Arts – authentic Aboriginal Art by our own local artists – all new artists welcome**

We opened in April 2023 and I am thrilled to tell you that by October we have returned over \$30,000 back to our Aboriginal community artists.

We currently have 51 Aboriginal artists on our books. If you are Aboriginal and would like to exhibit and sell painting, weaving, or other cultural arts, please do drop into the gallery and talk to our staff.

Huge thanks to everyone—both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal—who are supporting our artists by buying art and craft items from Perridak Arts. Feel free also to simply visit, as the gallery is a culturally rich, welcoming, warm and colourful space.

## **Elders Independent Living Village – delivering on the vision**

Our Elders Independent Living Village is on track to deliver a culturally rich, socially connected, supported environment.

I'm excited to inform you that in 2023, construction is almost complete and a group of Elders have visited the site and given the project a big thumbs up.

## **Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care – Aboriginal Self-Determination in Action**

BADAC has been authorised from October 2023 to deliver Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal care. Congratulations to the ACAC and Kinships teams and our community for working hard to achieve accreditation.

We understand there will be challenges ahead for both BADAC and community, however we ask you all to continue to work with us. Decisions about Aboriginal children are now in Aboriginal hands. This is a huge step forward for Aboriginal Self-Determination.

## **Three BADAC Early Years Centres to engage Aboriginal children and families from the earliest years.**

In previous years, I have described our steady progress from vision, to securing funding, to delivering two culturally safe Early Years centres. Both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children enjoy the culturally rich curriculum and amazing play spaces.

In late 2023, we anticipate the opening of our third 100-place Early Years Centre in Ballan: an especially welcome addition to our eastern Ballarat and Moorabool community, as Ballan is recognised by the Federal government as a 'childcare desert'—but not for too much longer!

## **Funding and Sponsorship**

BADAC continues to be innovative and to apply for funding from government and philanthropic organisations to deliver new programs. I want to thank you, our community, for all the input, feedback, suggestions, survey responses, and contributions; your valued engagement helps to shape BADAC's future.

The Victorian government continues to be a very significant partner. We also acknowledge much-needed funding support from Paul Ramsay Foundation; Federal Government; City of Ballarat; Central Highlands Water; Warrawong Foundation; State Trustees; WestVicPHN; and Dhelk Dja.

Good strategic planning, and the flexibility to grow and change, are vital for BADAC to be able to anticipate and respond to community need. Please do keep sharing your ideas and concerns with us, and keep filling in surveys, so we can continue to provide the culturally safe services we all need to thrive.



## Important Alliances – WDAC and VACYPA

BADAC actively contributes to two vital alliances:

### Western District ACCO Collective (WDAC).

CEOs attend from: Buja Buja Aboriginal Cooperative (Halls Gap-Gariwerd), Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service (Portland), Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative (Horsham & Wimmera), Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative (Warrnambool), Kirrae Health Service (Purnim), Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative (Geelong, Bellarine, Colac), Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation (Heyward & Hamilton), and BADAC (Ballarat & Central Highlands).

The purpose of the WDAC is to hold ourselves as ACCOs and others accountable to our Aboriginal people, culture, and communities in the district by:

- Harnessing and leveraging the diverse, local expertise of each ACCO, through our collective expertise and resources.
- Being a strong collective voice and united front for our communities and ACCOs, both proactively and responsively setting our own agenda and priorities.
- Driving Aboriginal self-determination, that is, Aboriginal people in control of their own power and resources, and making decisions for themselves, their families, and their communities.
- Providing advice, advocacy and drive decisions on the priorities, policies, services, and funding that impacts Aboriginal communities.

### Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance (VACYPA).

**The Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance is a collective of 15 Victorian ACCOs working together to positively influence the future of Aboriginal Children.**

The VACYPA Alliance and Members work ranges from early help and prevention through to children in care: to advocate for and support Aboriginal children and young people to thrive in strong families. Together, we amplify Aboriginal voices and achieve change.

### VACYPA Priorities

- A standalone Aboriginal Families, Children and Youth Care Act is in place by 2026
- VACYPA recognised and funded as the peak body for member ACCOs engaged in the families, children, and young people's sector
- Local decision making by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)

- Every Aboriginal family seeking support can access what they need directly from their local ACCO
- Aboriginal children stay in their communities so connection to family and friends are maintained and disruption minimised
- Carer equity
- Equitable workforce and operating costs

### Referendum

The grief, shock, anger, and crushing disappointment experienced by many of our Aboriginal community and our non-Aboriginal allies after the Voice referendum result was heart-rending. BADAC will take time to sort through our responses, and consider next steps.

One thing is very clear: BADAC will continue to serve our local Aboriginal community, supporting our people to be strong and proud in culture, healthy, and self-determining.

### Thank you to BADAC executive, staff and community.

I want to extend a huge thank you to BADAC's Board for guiding us through another busy and successful year. Profound thanks to my hard-working and talented executive team, Leigh, David, Peter, and Shu.

I am so proud of all BADAC's dedicated staff and the wonderful work that each and every one of you does. We currently have 201 employees. We are a medium-large sized employer in the region, and one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in western Victoria.

A massive thank you to our Aboriginal community, friends, and partners.

With your help, we will continue to fight for, plan, and deliver Aboriginal self-determination.

Please stay safe this festive season, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Kind regards and take care,

Karen Heap





# CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

## BADAC Closure

The Board of Directors and Executive Team wish to advise that BADAC will be closed from Friday 22nd December at 4pm, until Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 9am.

We wish all Staff, Community and their families a wonderful Christmas and safe New Year.

See you all in 2024!



# CULTURE CARE CONNECT

## Social and Emotional Wellbeing

The Culture Care Connect program is part of a national network of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations working towards a target of zero suicides in Aboriginal communities. The Cultural Care Connect program [aims to improve wellbeing and suicide prevention outcomes with a community-led approach working towards a target of zero suicides](#) in Aboriginal communities.

Coordinated activities include:

- Suicide prevention planning
- Working closely with other suicide prevention services
- Identifying risks
- Improved social and emotional wellbeing outcomes.
- Coordinating a community-led response

Supporting grassroots movement from local levels



Aftercare support will include screening and assessment to provide early intervention, prevention response, mentoring and case-coordinated treatment and support. [Advocating and connecting the community to culturally safe services and practices will be central to building trust, strength, resilience, and self-care.](#)

Aftercare activities include:

- Raising awareness
- Crisis management
- Early intervention
- Prevention
- Postvention

Aftercare service

Referral through SEWB Team



## Community is at the Heart

**Survey** Social and Emotional Wellbeing will be asking the community to help us improve our Social and Emotional Wellbeing services. We invite you to help us understand what works and what stops people from seeking help. We will be rolling out some surveys soon.

**Advisory Group** BADAC is seeking expressions of interest from local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples to join our committee as advisory members. Throughout our implementation of the Cultural Care Connect program, we want to ensure that Community members have a key role in developing this Aboriginal-led response. We aim to explore problems and solutions collaboratively identifying gaps, reflecting on experiences with services and providing strong, culturally safe solutions to suicide prevention.

**Workshop** We are planning a co-designing yarning session in February 2024. BADAC need your help with advice on improvements aimed at strengthening individual and Community response through a range of promotional and prevention initiatives. Dates and times TBC.

For any enquiries or questions, please contact the Culture Care Connect team on 5331 5344, ext 3, or [sewbreception@badac.net.au](mailto:sewbreception@badac.net.au)



# GRADE 6 GRADUATES OF 2023



**Name of Graduate**—River Sisic

**Mob (If Known)** - Noongar

**What is the name of your school?** -

Black Hill Primary School

**How are you feeling going into high**

**school next year?** - Very excited

**What was your favourite class this year?** -

PE and Maths

**Do you have a Role Model and why?** -

My mum, dad and coaches

**What's some advice you can give to Grade 5's that will become Grade 6's next year?**

You will have lots of fun being the big kids in the school

**Name of Graduate**—Billee Bux

**Mob (If Known)** - Yorta Yorta

**What is the name of your**

**school?** -

Forest Street Primary School

**How are you feeling going into high school next**

**year?** - Nervous but excited

**What was your favourite class this year?** - PE

**Do you have a Role Model and why?** -

My mum, because she inspires me.

**What's some advice you can give to Grade 5's that will become Grade 6's next year?**

Be a good role model in front of kids.



**Name of Graduate**—Morgan Pike

**Mob (If Known)** - Wamba Wamba

**What is the name of your school?** -

St Aloysius

**How are you feeling going into high**

**school next year?** - Nervous and excited to

begin anew chapter

**What was your favourite class this year?** - Art

**Do you have a Role Model and why?** - My Mum, she encourages me and my siblings to be who we want to be

**What's some advice you can give to Grade 5's that will become Grade 6's next year?**

It is what it is, don't sweat the small stuff

**Name of Graduate**—Taj Sperling

**Mob (If Known)** - Yorta Yorta

**What is the name of your school?**

Magpie primary

**How are you feeling going into**

**high school next year?** - Excited

**What was your favourite class this year?** - Phys ed

**Do you have a Role Model and why?** - Mr

Beacham , my Phys Ed teacher because I want to do the same things as he does when I'm older

**What's some advice you can give to Grade 5's that will become Grade 6's next year?**

Try your best. Make sure you do a good job at getting ready for high school





# YEAR 12 GRADUATES OF 2023



**Name of Graduate**—Indigo Harrison

**Mob (If Known)** - Wadawurrung

**What is the name of your school**—

Damascus College

**What was your most enjoyable class at school?** - Media and art

**Who is your role model and why?** - Media teacher Naomi as she always brought a positive vibe to the class and made learning about media as fun as possible.

**A message to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are yet to finish school**

Just keep pushing through and be proud of who you are.



**Name of Graduate**—Lilla McIntyre

Lilla has engaged in various school and community activities that are profoundly meaningful to her. One of her most significant roles is as a leader in the Indigenous Student Program, where she strives to create a sense of care and support for

Indigenous students within her school. Furthermore, she plays a pivotal role in the Reconciliation Action Plan working group.

Lilla has exciting plans for her academic future. She intends to pursue studies in arts and law at Melbourne University and has already received an early offer to Ormond College. Alongside her academic pursuits, Lilla is an amazing singer, recognized for her talents. At the recent valedictory dinner, where she was the keynote speaker, leaving a lasting impression on the audience, individuals in the crowd stated, "She will run the country one day!" Such accolades speak to the impact Lilla has on those around her, highlighting her as an extraordinary and inspiring individual.

Notably, Lilla is highly respected by her peers and teachers, a testament to her leadership and dedication. Having lived in various places, including Queensland and Wadeye in the Northern Territory, she calls Ballarat home, emphasising the significance of her connection to this community.

We are all very proud of her accomplishments and the positive influence she has on her community.

**Name of Graduate** - Kailah Scott

**Mob (If Known)** - Madhi- Madhi

**What is the name of your school?**

Loreto College Ballarat

**What was your most enjoyable class at school?** - Physical Education

**Who is your role model and why?** - Cathy Freeman- because she went after her dream, and made history staying true to herself

**A message to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are yet to finish school**—

Try absolutely everything



**Name of Graduate**—Brodie Kennedy-Slater

**What is the name of your school** - Berry Street School

**What was your most enjoyable class at school?** - Literacy

**Who is your role model and why?** - Mum, because she looks after us the most and helps us when we need it

**A message to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are yet to finish school**—

It may be hard but if you keep focused on what you're doing you will get through it.



  
**Congratulations!**



# PERRIDAK BURRON EARLY LEARNING

## Aunty Rose Bamblett Koorie Early Year Legacy Award

Perridak Burron and Yirram Burron Early Learning were finalists for the Aunty Rose Bamblett Koorie Early Years Legacy Award and WON!. This award recognizes one or more early childhood services that are demonstrating holistic service provision that engage Aboriginal children and families.

Perridak Burron and Yirram Burron Early Learning cater specifically to Aboriginal children that have experienced trauma and ensure all Koorie children within their services have the best possible start to their education journey in a culturally safe environment.

As part of our nomination for the Victorian Early Years Awards, Flick came to film our deadly experiences and engagement with the Burron and educators.



## Art Show

Yirram and Perridak Burron Early Learning held an art show in the tree room at BADAC. Our families and the wider community attended to help celebrate our little artists.

We had family input and engagement within the pieces, we asked our families to contribute to creating their own leaf for the emu display.

Ash our Wayipungitj (supporter) spent time with the Yaluk mob to help design their coolamons.

The theme of the art show was respecting country every room across the centre had a different art piece they created around respecting country.



## Reverse Advent Calendar

We are participating in the Reverse Advent Calendar for another year.

This year they are partnering with Uniting, Anglicare, Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul to distribute boxes to people in the community who are doing it tough.

Last year our wonderful community filled 6 boxes, hopefully we can beat that this year!





# YIRRAM BURRON EARLY LEARNING

Kaitlin and the early years learning team had a wonderful opportunity to attend a SNAICC conference in Darwin. It was a wonderful and educational experience. Throughout the week we go to listen to several highly experience speakers and bring back lots of information and ideas to share with the team.

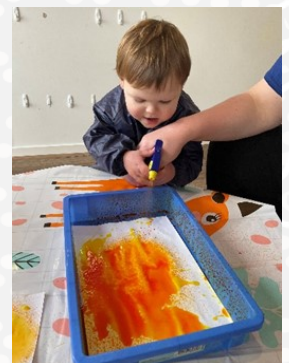
We held our first ever art show down at BADAC which was a great success with the children's art work on display we had lots of interest and attendance from families who attend the service and also the community.

The Murnong children have been busy focusing on art and displays for the room. The children have been interested in mixing colours and seeing the different patterns they can make with their sun catchers.

The Garrang room have welcomed some tadpole eggs in the kinder. There has been lots of interest around the life cycle of frogs. They have been watching the tank, reading books, and learning how they hatch and grow. As well as enjoying the sunshine making magical potions. They have also been working together on the turn taking skills and learning more about the aboriginal tracks and symbols.

Some dates for our families to remember:

- 20<sup>th</sup> of December- Yirram Burron children's service Christmas Party.
- Yirram Burron will be closed from 21st of December 2023- 2nd of January 2024.





# YALUK BURRON EARLY LEARNING



Meet Slavica Harrison—our new Centre Director for Yaluk Burron.

With over 17 years of experience in early childhood, she believes in inspiring children to be the best learners that they can be, through learning environment inspired by nature that is culturally rich, supportive, and inclusive. Embracing the holistic journey that will influence cultural learnings of each child.

Slavica is a mother of 4— Zack 13, Leah 10 (Angel in heaven at 3/12) Macey 4 and Tanner 2. We are a very multicultural family with Macedonian, Italian and Vietnamese in our family, I love sitting around the dinner table and listening to everyone talk about cultural history. Our cultural experiences and values shape the way we see ourselves and what we think is important.

For any enquiries regarding Yaluk Burron, you can email Slavica on [admin@yalukburronel.com.au](mailto:admin@yalukburronel.com.au)





# BENGADAK BABAB—PLAYGROUP

## Bengadak Babab (celebrating our children) Danielle—Playgroup Facilitator

### Possum Skin Cloak Presentation

On 28<sup>th</sup> August, we had the official presentation of our Possum Skin Cloak.

We have been working on this project with Aunty Marjorie and families from Playgroup for close to 12 months, and it was very exciting to see it all finally come together.

We can't wait to see it displayed at Yirram Burron.



### Ngarra Dja- Learning on Country

This term we have enjoyed a couple of Ngarra Dja Sessions at the Woookarung Regional Park on the Friendly Forest and Sensory Trail. The children have had a great time exploring the track and the bush surrounding it, looking for animals and insects, completing nature scavenger hunts and a picnic together before our walks.



Our final Playgroup session for the year will run on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, and will start back up in Term 1, 2024.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

**Bengadak Playgroup – Facilitated at the Yirram Burron location**

Please contact Danielle Creelman at [dcreelman@badac.net.au](mailto:dcreelman@badac.net.au) to register your interest for playgroup sessions in 2024, or alternatively call 03 5335 6231.

Playgroup operates; 10.30 – 12.30 on Mondays & Fridays. Closed during school holidays.



# SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

## Research Project

Diagram 1: A Model of Social and Emotional Wellbeing<sup>16</sup>



© Gee, Dudgeon, Schultz, Hart and Kelly, 2013

The SEWB team would like to thank the community members who participated in our research project in August and September and shared their experiences of the Social and Emotional Wellbeing service. We are incredibly grateful for your participation and honesty. Your feedback and recommendations will inform improvements to the service and help ensure SEWB continues to adapt and respond to the needs of the community. SEWB hopes to maintain a dialogue with clients and community. Keep an eye out for future opportunities to contribute!

## Christmas Activities

**“We hope everyone has the opportunity to relax and celebrate with family and friends this holiday season.**

**Please note that we will be taking a short break from Friday, December 22nd 2023 - reopening Tuesday, January 2nd 2024.**

**On behalf of everyone at Social and Emotional Wellbeing, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday.”**

Read a Book  
Colour in  
Do a puzzle

Catch up with a friend or family member.

Go for a walk/run/jog.  
Stretch your muscles.

Listen to music.  
Watch a funny movie/tv show.

Tidy up your house/  
Declutter.  
Bake something

Have a Shower  
Make a cup of tea or light a candle.

**Tune into you five senses by naming.**

- 5 things you can see.
- 4 things you can hear.
- 3 things you can feel.
- 2 things you can smell.
- 1 thing you can taste.



# FAMILY VIOLENCE TEAM

Merry Christmas  
from the  
Family Violence Team



**We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.**

**We have enjoyed being able to have community  
back in the office this year and being able  
to get out and about again!**

**We wish you all safe and happy Holidays!  
If you, or someone you know is experiencing Family  
Violence, please see the support numbers below.**

- VicPol: 000
- The Orange Door: 1800 219 819
- BADAC Family Violence Team: 03 5331 5344
- Lifeline: 131 114
- Berry Street, A/hours: 03 9429 9266
- Safe Steps: 1800 151 188
- Men's Referral Services: 1300 766





# CUSTOM BUILT AT BADAC

Another season has flown by us and the Custom Built at BADAC team have been as busy as ever, assisting with the setup of Yaluk Burron Early Learning Centre, renovation of new residential properties and maintaining our existing commercial and residential buildings, as well as our Custom Built projects.

In line with BADAC's Environmental Policy to "reduce the overall ecological footprint", we have begun the transition from fossil fuelled equipment to a cleaner & greener rechargeable option. Our latest additions to the environmentally friendly line-up include a lawn mower, whipper snipper, leaf blower and hedge trimmer.



There has been a sense of excitement in the workshop as we draw close to the completion of our first two portable buildings constructed. These are a fantastic display of the skills and workmanship that the team possess and pride themselves in.

The Custom Built team vehicles have recently had a makeover and now feature the Custom Built at BADAC logo. You will now, easily know that it is us pulling up when we pop in to make repairs. If you spot us out and about, be sure to give us a wave, we would love that.

Wishing you all a safe and merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.







Since opening in April this year, Perridak Arts has been kicking some amazing goals!

The gallery has sold over 330 pieces of art, equating to \$55,000 in sales. \$30,000 of those sales has gone back into the community.

We have had some great local groups come and visit and have tours of the gallery including:

- Daylesford Neighbourhood House
- Maryborough Primary School
- Loreto College
- Damascus College



If you have a school or community group that you think would like to visit the gallery, please get in contact with Sue or Donna on the details below.

In time we hope to have weaving and other craft workshops on offer to the community. Please keep an eye on our socials for details on when this will hopefully happen.

It is estimated about 1,000 people to date have walked through the doors of Perridak Arts. This is a massive achievement and testament to the great work being done by the staff at the gallery. We must also say thank you to the following local businesses who have engaged with us for co-marketing and promotion:

- Jigsaw Gallery— Craig Holloway
- Ballarat Provincial Media
- Mitchell Harris Wines
- Creative Framing Gallery
- Power FM/3BA



## GALLERY ADDRESS

Shop 2/ 214 Mair Street  
Ballarat, Victoria, Australia

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

Email: [info@perridakarts.com.au](mailto:info@perridakarts.com.au)  
Phone: +61 3 5331 1309

## OPENING HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4pm  
Saturday 10am - 3pm



# GOOD NEWS STORIES

## Skin Burning Workshop

On Tuesday 28th November both Men and Women' groups gathered at our Cultural Therapeutic Centre in Main Rd to take part in the Umalek Balit and Yarn Strong Sista Skin Burning workshops. The Possum and Kangaroo skins will be available for community to use when attending Ballarat Magistrates Court.



## Standing Strong

The Referendum may not have brought the result some wanted, but Uncle Paul, Aunty Leah & Aunty Bel wanted to send a strong message that we will be ok....keep walking proudly you mob.....here is you ever need us.

Always Was Always Will Be!

Njaki Njak



Madi Madi

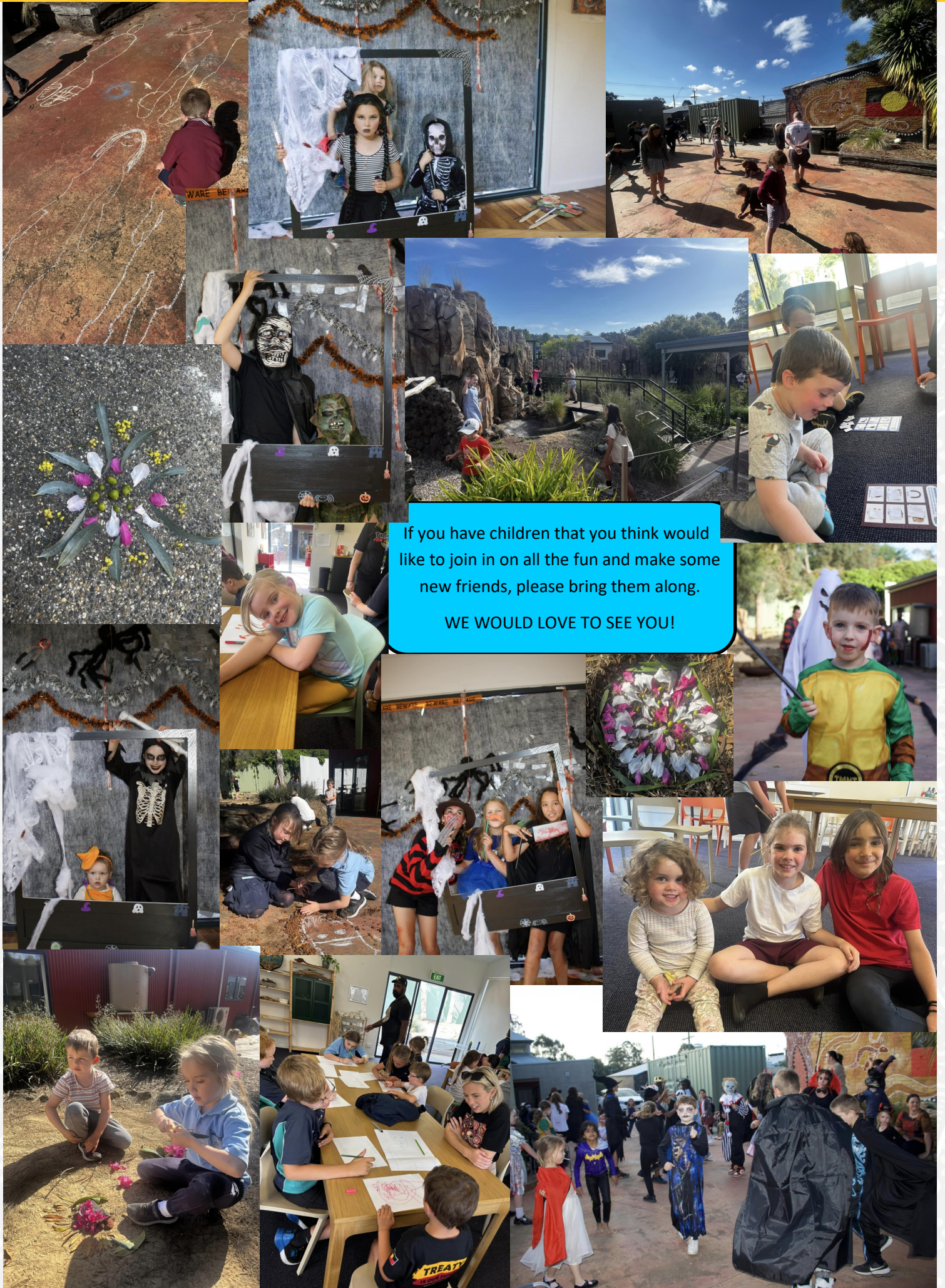


Gunditjmara





# BADAC YOUTH GROUP



If you have children that you think would like to join in on all the fun and make some new friends, please bring them along.  
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!



# GOOD NEWS STORIES

## Billabong Ranch Holiday Camp

On the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, BADAC, Western Bulldogs and Wathaurong Geelong took over 50 kids from Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne on a camp to the Billabong Ranch in Echuca on Yorta Yorta Country.

It was a great space for the children to create some amazing friendships with other kids from Victoria.

They've requested to do more catch ups together in the future, which was the main purpose bringing two communities together.

The Kids were able to participate in activities that aren't at any other camps, such as Camel Riding, Mini Golf, Lassoing, Orienteering, access to farm animals, Bungee Trampolines and much more.

It was great to see them push themselves with new activities, even if it was out of their comfort zone just a little bit.

There was plenty of space where we held many markers up completions that staff got all the kids to be involved.

Overall it was a great space for the kids to just be kids, connecting with other kids in community. Many were able to make connections being from the same mob and learning more about each other.

Some kids have continued to keep in contact and look forward to catching up again at other events.





# GOOD NEWS STORIES

## Congratulations Reb!



Congratulations to staff member Reb Griffiths who recently graduated from her Diploma in Community Services at Federation University.

A few words from Reb.....

Anyone who knows me, knows I am dyslexic and I'm okay with that now but when I was younger I wasn't! Learning was always hard.

I have just passed my Diploma in Community Services after not passing year 8 and having only done my Cert 3 in Community Service in a traineeship when I was 27. The traineeship helped me learn to read and write.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, I got my diploma. I am proud of myself and what I have achieved in the last few years! I did my diploma in under 7 months when it's a 2-year traineeship!

I was supported when I needed it by an amazing group of people, even offered a tutor (that I didn't use) I cried, I quit, and some days I just couldn't! Study is not meant to read like stereo instructions!

I have also been nominated for Fed Uni's Fed Awards, their annual celebration of student achievements, and I am a finalist in the Wurreker Awards this month as well.

I am proud of every step I took to get where I am today! Being dyslexic doesn't stop you, you just learn to learn differently from everyone else.

Always believe in yourself!

Congratulations on your achievement Reb!

## Nallei-Jerring Graduation

In October, some of our Youth community members graduated from the Nallei-Jerring Western Bulldogs Community Foundation Program.

Members attended group activities, camps and weekend workshops.

What I enjoyed most about Nallei-Jerring was meeting new people and sharing new experiences. I got to learn many new things about culture that I hadn't before.

Also

I'm so grateful for connections made with our mentor Dani—**Amayah Edwards**

Nallei-Jerring has shown me how to have great leadership and it has helped with my confidence in speaking and talking to other people. It has also allowed me to connect with mob around Ballarat and meet new people—**Evie Clarke**



The best thing about the Nallei-Jerring program was getting to see mob on a regular basis. I also enjoyed being able to meet new people that shared the same culture as me. Dani was easy to talk to, funny, and I liked spending time with her —**Kyeema Brown**

I enjoyed the activities and excursions that we got to go on and complete. I enjoyed meeting new people and hanging out with old friends as well. It also gave me confidence to speak in larger groups. I look forward to doing more programs with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation in the future—**Ashleigh Kanoa**



# GOOD NEWS STORIES

## Circle of Solidarity

On Sunday 8th October, Koz and April from the Culture Care Connection team attended the Circle of Solidarity Community Event at Lake Esmond.

Koz and April were on hand to share information about the programs on offer at BADAC with raffles, giveaways and much more.

The girls had a great day sharing information about the programs and services BADAC offer.



## Trip to Austria

During October, Wotjobaluk Elder and community member Marjorie Pickford went on a trip to Austria as part of the Repatriation Delegation for the handover of Ancestry remains. The group also consisted of Representatives from the Dharawal Nations & Ngiyampal Nations who were also collecting remains to take back to their Communities.

The group visited the Embassy in Vienna where members could vote if needed as the Referendum was taking place back here in Australia. There was a lot of sightseeing enjoyed including museums, bus tours, churches and much more.

The handover of remains took place at the Austrian Academy of Science where they had dinner with the Australian Ambassador of Vienna and also had Ambassador staff as tour guides.

The day of the handover consisted of a smoking ceremony, speeches by special guests and the signing of the handover certificates. The Ancestry remains have been delivered to the Melbourne Museum and the Dharawal Nations & Ngiyampal Nations representatives have returned theirs to their local museums as well.

In time, the remains at the Melbourne Museum will be buried onsite in the Wimmera with other remains that are already there.





# GOOD NEWS STORIES

## Victorian Early Years Awards



### We won!

Perridak Early Learning & Yirram Burron Early Learning are excited to be announced as the winner in the Aunty Rose Bamblett Koorie Early Years Legacy in the Department of Education's Victorian Early Years Awards (VEYA).

Both Perridak & Yirram Burron are incredibly proud to be recognised for this award amongst some great nominees.

This year 26 finalists were shortlisted across all categories.

We are delighted to receive \$15,000 to put towards professional development and to further develop our programs within our Early Years Centre.

We would like to congratulate all other finalists and winners.

You can visit the Department of Education website to read more about our award win -

<https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-early-years-awards-winners>

Congratulations again to all our staff and Management within the Early Years teams.





# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## PERRIDAK ARTS

100% Authentic Ballarat  
First Nations Art &  
Crafts



### BALLARAT'S LOCAL FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY ARTS AND CRAFTS GALLERY

2/214 Mair Street Ballarat Central

Ph. 03 5331 1309/0499021023

Open Tuesday to Saturday

10am to 4pm

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



A program by Ballarat & District Aboriginal Cooperative



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## WHAT WE OFFER

PERRIDAK ARTS IS A PROGRAM BY BALLARAT & DISTRICT ABORIGINAL COOPERATIVE, WHICH SUPPORTS LOCAL FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE TO ENTER INTO THE EVOLVING OF ABORIGINAL ART INDUSTRY.

WE ARE PROUD TO INTRODUCE THE PUBLIC TO THE MANY UNIQUE TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY STYLES OF BALLARAT'S LOCAL ARTISTS, WHICH REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF FIRST NATIONS ART FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA. MANY OF OUR ARTISTS, NOW CHOOSE TO LIVE IN THE BALLARAT AREA AND MAKE IT THEIR HOME.

PERRIDAK ARTS IS A WELCOMING AND RELAXING SETTING, CREATING A FEEL WHICH IS REFLECTIVE OF WALKING ON COUNTRY.



### SUPPORT FOR BALLARAT LOCAL FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS AND CRAFTS PEOPLE

A NON-FOR-PROFIT PROGRAM, PERRIDAK ARTS GIVES 75% OF ALL SALES BACK TO THE ARTISTS AND COMMUNITY. IN ADDITION, WE SUPPORT YOUNG ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S AND MEN'S PROGRAMS BY PURCHASING THEIR GROUP ART TO SELL IN THE GALLERY. AS A SIGNATORY TO THE INDIGENOUS ART CODE, WE ENSURE ALL ART & CRAFTS ARE 100% AUTHENTIC AND WE ALSO TREAT OUR ARTISTS WITH TRUST AND RESPECT.

WE WELCOME ALL LOCAL FIRST NATIONS ARTISTS AND CRAFTPEOPLE TO DISPLAY THEIR WORKS AND FURTHER SUPPORT BY ASSISTING THEM WITH THE BUSINESS ASSOCIATED WITH SELLING THEIR ARTWORK, NAVIGATING THE ABORIGINAL ART SCENE

### ABORIGINAL INTERACTIVE AND CULTURALLY INFORMATIVE TALKS AND DISPLAYS

WITHIN THE GALLERY THERE IS A COLLECTION OF ABORIGINAL ARTIFACTS AND ITEMS WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION AND BROADEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ABORIGINAL TRADITIONS IN THE AREA

INSIDE YOU WILL FIND ITEMS SUCH AS A POSSUM SKIN CLOAK, INTERACTIVE MAPS, WEAVING DEMONSTRATIONS, ARTISTS IN





# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

**Stronger**

**Brother**



**The SBSS program will be taking a break over the festive season.**

**The last group session for 2023 will be on Friday 15th December and return for 2024 on Friday 2nd February.**

**Stronger**

**Sister**



Ballarat and District  
Aboriginal  
Co-operative Ltd



**Recovery  
Healing  
Support  
Connect with Respect**

**11.30am - 2pm Fridays**

**Lunch Provided**

**403 Main Rd**

**Contact Jo-Anne Morrow—0447 078 099**



# COME TAKE SANTA PHOTOS

**Thursday  
21st December**



**Where: BADAC 403  
Main Road**

**Drop in for  
Santa's visit times:  
11:00am - 1:00pm  
2:00pm - 3:30pm**



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

BADAC EVENT

# CHRISTMAS TREE

**15TH OF DECEMBER  
BALLARAT EASTERN OVAL  
PEEL STREET  
4PM - 8PM**

MUSIC  
JUMPING CASTLES  
PETTING ZOO  
POPCORN  
FAIRYFLOSS  
BBQ TEA &  
MUCH MUCH MORE

TO ALL  
THE  
MOB



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

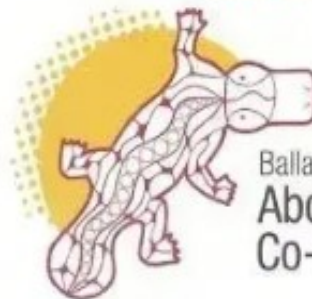


# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

**AT MAIN RD**  
**Gates open at 7:30pm**  
**Movie to begin at 8:30pm**  
**BYO CHAIRS AND SNACKS**

**DECEMBER**  
**21ST**

**FEATURED MOVIE:**  
**Home Alone**



Ballarat and District  
Aboriginal  
Co-operative Ltd





## Know someone who needs legal help?

Victoria Legal Aid can provide legal advice and support on parenting arrangements, property division, family violence intervention orders, child protection matters, criminal charges, tenancy and fines.

Speak with Stacy Lovett Kanoa, Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer on:

**Phone:** (03) 5329 6280

**Email:** [Stacy.LovettKanoa@vla.vic.gov.au](mailto:Stacy.LovettKanoa@vla.vic.gov.au)

### **What we need:**

- Full name and date of birth of the person being referred
- Their contact details
- Court date and location, if any
- Other parties involved, like ex-partners and any dependents



# COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## BADAC Services

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

- 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 including NDIS
- 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

## Contact Us

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

F: (03) 5333 1637



**Have you changed your Address**

**OR**

**Want your magazine 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 our Reception  
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
BHS Mental Health Services—24/7 support for advice, access and triage	1300 661 323
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 advise 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

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.