



Outer East KESO Team Newsletter

31st May 2022

Welcome to the third edition of the KESO Newsletter for 2022.

This week is National Reconciliation Week (NRW) which is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The theme for 2022 is, “Be Brave. Make Change.” it is a challenge to all Australians— individuals, families, communities, organisations, and government—to Be Brave and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can Make Change for the benefit of all Australians.

Last week on the 26th of May it was National Sorry Day. This day that occurs every year remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who were forcibly removed from their families and communities, which we now know as ‘The Stolen Generations’.

National Sorry Day is a day to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. While this date carries great significance for the Stolen Generations and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, it is also commemorated by Australians right around the country. If there is anything that you or your child would like to talk about, please contact your kindergarten, primary school, or secondary school. You can also contact your KESO for support or visit the [Department of Education and Training Victoria](#) website.

CONTENTS:

Campfire Conversations.....	p.2-3
Scholarships & Further Education Opportunities.....	p.3-5
Health & Support Resources.....	p.5
Programs, Clubs, Activities & Events.....	p.6
Reconciliation Week 2022 Resource Guide.....	p.7
KESO & KEC Contact Details.....	p.8-9
Community Contact Details.....	p.10



Campfire Conversations

The Department of Education and Training, in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated, is bringing Koorie communities, young people and schools together to listen, share and connect about self-determination for Koorie people in education.

The purpose of this conversation is to receive input and feedback from interested Koorie families, communities, schools and stakeholders in the design and implementation of reforms that strengthen Aboriginal self-determination in education.

You are invited to respond to questions on the Engage Victoria platform, or to provide a submission via email to marrung@education.vic.gov.au Submissions can be made until the 24th of June 2022.

This engagement seeks to:

- provide Koorie communities opportunities to define self-determination in education
- explore possibilities for how self-determination could and should look in education
- build and strengthen partnerships between Koorie communities and schools
- highlight the benefits of self-determination for whole school communities
- improve attendance, engagement, and achievement for Koorie learners
- develop a range of changes to improve agency and success for Koorie people in schools.

Across the State 100 schools will be participating in the Campfire Conversations. The schools in the Outer East that have been participating are:

- ❖ Badger Creek PS
- ❖ Boronia K-12
- ❖ Heathmont SC
- ❖ Lilydale Heights College
- ❖ The Patch PS
- ❖ Woori Yallock PS

Scholarships & Further Education Opportunities

The Public Education Foundation

Applications for Tertiary scholarships will open in May 2022

Applications for Primary and Secondary scholarships will open in June 2022.

- Scholarships for students moving on to **tertiary** education in 2023 opening from 10 May 2022.
- Scholarships for **secondary** school students opening from 22 June 2022.
- Scholarships for **primary** school students opening from 22 June 2022.

For more information, visit [Public Education Foundation](#).

MORE VOUCHERS FOR KIDS TO PLAY THE SPORTS THEY LOVE

More vouchers for sporting equipment, uniforms and memberships are being made available as the Andrews Labor Government reduces the cost of getting in the game for thousands of Victorian families.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence has announced \$12.3 million for the continuation of the popular *Get Active Kids Voucher Program* through to June 2023.

The vital program reduces out-of-pocket expenses associated with participation in community sport by providing eligible parents and guardians with a \$200 voucher to help defray the costs of membership, registration, uniforms, and equipment.

Data from the first three rounds shows almost 30 per cent of children who received a voucher joined a local sporting club for the first time and about 45 per cent also indicated they would not have been able to take part without the financial support.

So far, the program has issued more than 55,000 vouchers, providing more opportunities for kids to get active, try new things and learn more skills.

Parents now only need to apply for the vouchers online before redeeming them at a registered *Get Active Kids Voucher Activity Provider* – such as a local sporting club or organisation.

Registered activity providers must be affiliated with a recognised State Sporting Association or equivalent governing body and can lodge voucher codes with the Labor Government to be credited the costs.

The program is open to Victorian children aged up to 18 who are named on a valid Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and named on a valid Medicare Card at the time of application.

A special consideration stream is also available to support children in care, temporary or provisional visa holders, undocumented migrants, and international students up to 18 years at the time of application.

Applications for the current round are now open and close at 5pm on 31 May. For this current round, families can also continue to claim reimbursement for expenses already incurred. Further information on future rounds of the program will be available soon at getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers.

Early Years Education Scholarships

The Early Childhood Aboriginal Pathway Scholarship is for eligible Aboriginal people wanting to become an early childhood teacher, educator or to upskill current qualifications.

You could be eligible to receive up to:

\$2500 towards an approved Early Childhood Certificate III qualification

\$5000 towards an approved Early Childhood Diploma qualification

\$34,000 towards an approved Undergraduate qualification

\$16,000 towards an approved Graduate Diploma qualification

\$24,000 towards an approved Master's qualification

More information and application can be found [here](#).

AFL SportsReady

AFL SportsReady is a national, not-for-profit company dedicated to helping young Australians develop careers through traineeships and educational opportunities.

AFL SportsReady work in partnership across several industry sectors including sport and recreation, business and administration, education, finance, horticulture, information technology, retail and arts and the creative industries.

AFL SportsReady provide an entry-level training and support program that combines practical work experience with vocational education, helping young Australians kick-start their careers while supporting employers to build skilled and qualified workforces.

More information can be found [here](#)

Health & Support Resources

If you require any support to any health services in the area or Centrelink, please reach out to your KESO who will be able to provide details of different organisations or please refer to past editions of the Koorie newsletter for the health services details. Some of the services that we have previously highlighted are.

- ❖ **Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)**
- ❖ **NDIS**
- ❖ **Djirra – Koori Women's Place**
- ❖ **Dardi Munwurro**
- ❖ **Beyond Blue**
- ❖ **Headspace**
- ❖ **Stepped Care Mental Health Service**
- ❖ **Lilydale Youth Hub**

Programs, Clubs, Activities & Events



VACCA

Connected by culture

Explore the VACCA Cultural Hub – a space that celebrates Aboriginal culture and is full of deadly activities and resources to help you get creative, grow your knowledge, and connect to culture. For further details please click [here](#).

[VACCA's Eastern Yarning Circles!](#)

Starting from the month of June, each Friday from 4:00- 5:30pm, there will be activities for; Carers (within VACCA), Children and Youth (0-12, 13+ - in Community).

[Mullum Mullum Youth Programs](#)

The Mullum Mullum Youth meet regularly for Culture Group, Holiday programs and other fun activities. Please click on the above link for further details.

[KHT Kids' Club \(online\)](#)

The Koorie Heritage Trust Kids' Club Online enables our young people to engage with Koorie culture through art and storytelling. Please click on the above link for further details.

[The Little Long Walk 2022](#)

The purpose of the Little Long Walk is to unite Australians and provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on Michael Long's iconic walk to Canberra in 2004.

[Koorie Tiddas Youth Choir](#)

The Koorie Tiddas Youth Choir is made up of proud Aboriginal girls and young women who sing about culture, connection, identity and in language.

[First Nations Cultural Experience Workshop with Nartarsha Bamblett](#)

We are inviting all young people aged 12-25 to come experience and learn more about our First Nations Culture at this FREE workshop.

[NAIDOC Week T-Shirt Design comp](#)

Enter the comp for your chance to win \$1,000 and have your design featured on our exclusive NAIDOC tees!

Reconciliation Week 2022 Resource Guide

Reconciliation Week has begun starting on the 27th of May and finishing on the 3rd of June educators across the country will no doubt be looking for opportunities to explore this year's theme.

The 2022 theme for National Reconciliation Week is “Be Brave. Make Change.” The theme is a challenge to all Australians; individuals, families, communities, early childhood educators and government—to Be Brave and tackle the unfinished business of Reconciliation so we can Make Change for the benefit of all Australians.

In this guide are some suggestions on how educators can approach this year's theme.



Visit [Reconciliation Week 2022 Guide – Koori Curriculum](#) and complete the form to gain access to the **FREE** Koori Curriculum's Reconciliation Week 2022 guide.

Koorie Education Workforce

If you need any advice or support, please contact one of the team members or alternatively you can make contact via nevr.koorie.outereast@education.vic.gov.au

Koorie Education Coordinator (KEC)



Colleen Garner

Mobile: 0428 929 577, **E-mail:** colleen.garner@education.vic.gov.au

Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs)



Thomas Harrison (Lilydale Network):

Phone: 7505 4325, **E-mail:** thomas.harrison@education.vic.gov.au



Alice Young (Maroondah Network):

Mobile: 0455 052 689, **E-mail:** young.alice.e@education.vic.gov.au



Lea Jones (Knox Network)

Phone: 0459 901 705, **E-mail:** lea.jones@education.vic.gov.au



Angela Swindle (Yarra Valley Network):

Mobile: 0436 852 082, **E-mail:** angela.swindle@education.vic.gov.au



Kelsey Leatham (Dandenong Ranges Network)

Phone Number: 7505 4302, **E-mail:** kelsey.leatham@education.vic.gov.au

KESOs are area-based professionals that provide:

- advice to schools and early years services about culturally inclusive learning environments
- co-ordination of services to facilitate improved engagement of Koorie children and young people
- can attend Student Support Group meetings (SSG's) if the student, family, or school require.

Community Contact Details



VICTORIA ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION INC

VAEAI is a state-wide Koorie Community organisation consisting of eight regions. These regions are divided based on traditional networks with several Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups (LAECGs) within each region. Click [here](#) for further details.

The [Koorie Education Calendar \(2022\)](#) is now available on their website

Framed around significant events throughout the calendar year, the interactive **Koorie Education Calendar** has been developed by VAEAI to assist educators and learners alike. The Calendar draws the learner to Victorian Koorie voices, stories, and achievements, and features Koorie leaders, artists, authors, playwrights and more. The Calendar is updated annually and can assist schools in planning for key events and locating information about Victorian Koorie cultures, histories, and perspectives. Designed to be viewed online and printed on A3 paper for planning.

Any queries or feedback about these resources, please contact vaso@vaeai.org.au.

LAECG (Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group)

LAECGs operate to support parents of Aboriginal students to discuss Koorie education initiatives within their local community.

To find out more information and to participate contact your local LAECG Chairperson:

Lea Jones email: lea.jones@education.vic.gov.au