



Outer East KEW Team Newsletter

June 2024

“The Outer East KESO team acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traditional Custodians of Country and recognises their continuing connection to land, sea, culture, and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Aboriginal people whose traditional lands and waters exist within the boundaries that today frame the state of Victoria are often collectively called Koorie peoples or Koories. Koorie is a contemporary collective or group term. Throughout this Newsletter, the term ‘Koorie’ is used inclusively and refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Victoria.”

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the KESO Newsletter for 2024.

This edition showcases remarkable examples of the amazing initiatives happening in the Outer East. Immense gratitude goes to those who contributed articles and photographs and congratulations to everyone who participated in these endeavours. We want to seize this opportunity to extend our best wishes to you and your loved ones for a restful holiday break with family and friends.

The KESO’s will be on leave from Friday 28th of June 2024, returning on Monday 15th of July 2024. If you need to get in contact during this time, please feel free to email the team at nevr.koorie.outereast@education.vic.gov.au

Contents:

Celebrating Culture in Schools	p. 2-5
Lilydale District and Yarra Valley Education Plan – Koorie Student Programs	p. 6-7
NEVR KEW Staff Forum – Shepparton	p. 8
Outer East Marrung Lead PL- Collaboration & Capability Building	p. 9-10
Youth NAIDOC Ball – 2024...	p. 11
EMR NAIDOC Ball – 2024	p. 12
Keeping Culture – Events Activities Stories	p.13-16
Scholarships	p. 17
Contact Us.....	p. 18

Celebrating Culture in Schools

It sounds like Karoo Primary School has had an enriching experience through their secondary CUST training with Thomas Harrison and Lea Jones. The installation of the new 'directional sign' and their 'value poles' is a significant and visually impressive development for the school. It's great to hear that they are embracing their cultural journey and making tangible improvements as a result of the grant from the training.



It's impressive to hear about the collaborative effort of the Student Representative Team and Year 6 Student Voice Captains at Karoo Primary School in designing their student sports tops. The fact that this particular project has been in the making for the last 18 months shows a significant level of dedication and attention to detail.

Incorporating representations of Wyandra, Kelbourne, Murrindindi and Baringa in the design of the sports tops not only adds a unique touch but also reflects the diverse and inclusive ethos of the school. Collaborating with the very talented Aboriginal Artist Ky-ya Nicholson - <https://djirringu.com/> - brought a professional touch to the design process and ensured that the students' vision was brought to life in a meaningful way.

It's wonderful to see how students are actively involved in shaping aspects of their school environment and identity, The sports tops will not only be a uniform for Year 3-6 students but also a symbol of pride and unity for the students.



Directional Signs

Value Poles

Celebrating Culture in Schools



Karoo Primary School Entrance

Kudos to all those involved in this project for their creativity and commitment!!

Celebrating Culture in Schools

It's heartwarming to hear about the educational and cultural experience that Boronia Heights First Nations students had last week. The meeting with Vanessa Murdoch from EACH Aboriginal Health & Wellbeing, Angela Thurbon from Knox Council Community Projects Worker – Youth and Lea Jones KESO was a valuable opportunity for the students to learn about Bush Tucker.



Starting the morning with Brax Madgwick-Coulson and Ben L reading the school's newly developed Acknowledgement to Country together was a wonderful way to show respect and recognition for the traditional custodians of the land.

Vanessa's explanation about how the land served as a supermarket for Aboriginal ancestors, providing all they needed for a good and balanced diet, would have been both educational and eye-opening for the students.

Learning about Bush Tucker not only provides insight into Aboriginal culture and traditions but also highlights the deep connection between Indigenous communities and the land. It's fantastic to see initiatives like this that promote cultural awareness, respect, and appreciation among students.

It's also wonderful to hear that the students enjoyed the 'hands on' experience of making and then eating the bush tomatoes and dip and native dukkah with crusty bread and crackers. Sharing a meal together can create a sense of community and connection and fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation for Aboriginal culture and its culinary traditions.



· Brax MC & Ben Lambert



Vanessa, Serenity & Amelia



Vanessa, Ange & students



Serenity & Ameilia

Respect to Sarah McIntosh for organising this great experience!

Celebrating Culture in Schools

On the 23rd May Tinternvale Primary School were honoured to welcome Uncle Bill Nicholson to their school to conduct a Smoking Ceremony. The Principal said “it was a very special and moving experience for us all”. Their incredible staff prepared the students prior to the visit and on the day they were very attentive and respectful. The school were so proud of them,. A special thank you was extended to Emily Hine and Olivia Akarum who organised the event.



Uncle Bill spoke to all the students for some time and shared fascinating stories about his Aboriginal culture. There was not a sound as he spoke and when he asked questions the students raised their hands and were able to share their knowledge with him. At the conclusion of the Smoking Ceremony Uncle Bill commented on the knowledge and excellent behaviour of our students. Uncle Bill was quoted “he’s never been to a school where he felt more respected”



Students enthusiastically listening to Uncle Bill



Participating in the Smoking Ceremony



Tinternvale students with Uncle Bill



Tinternvale staff Olivia Akaruru & Emily Hine with Outer East KEW & Uncle Bill

Lilydale District & Yarra Valley Education Plan Koorie Student Program

The 2024 Lilydale District and Yarra Valley Education Plan Koorie Student Program, spanning Terms 1 and 2, has successfully concluded with an impressive Showcase Day. This year's program, consisting of six program days, provided participating students with opportunities for cultural connection, STEM and design skill development, and personal growth.

Held at the Yarra Ranges Tech School, students engaged in "tech-tasters" to help inform their choice of project. These hands-on experiences exposed students to a variety of cutting-edge technologies, allowing them to explore their interests and potential career paths. Student projects ranged from laser cutting and 3D printing to Virtual Reality, game design, and artwork, demonstrating the diverse skills and creativity of the participants.



During the program days, students were supported by guest speakers and mentors who shared their career and cultural journeys. Students heard from First Nations Astrophysicist, Krystal De Napoli, Zac Prior from DeadlyScience and the National Australia Bank Cyber Security and Data Ethics Teams. The guests not only shared their own stories but also acted as mentors and provided support and feedback to the students as they developed their ideas and projects.

The highlight of the program was undoubtedly the Showcase Day, where students took centre stage to present their achievements and projects. In a powerful display of leadership and confidence, the event was student-led, with students delivering speeches and presentations that reflected their journey throughout the program.

Attendees, including NEVR Regional Director, Karen Money, were treated to a diverse array of projects, each showcasing the unique talents and perspectives of the Koorie students. The projects demonstrated the students' deep engagement with their culture and their vision for the future.

Upper Yarra Secondary College students Charlotte, Year 8, and Margherita, Year 10, said exploring new skills, outside of their normal interests, was surprisingly enjoyable. Working with some other students, Margherita helped research and design a computer game intended for young people aged 12 to 15.



"I was helping create a game that's based on the Frontier Wars. So I was collecting information about what happened so we could add realistic elements into it and informative parts," she said.

"We chose to do the game because we thought it'd be a good, light hearted way to present information on what happened even though it's quite a dark topic."

Lilydale District & Yarra Valley Education Plan Koorie Student Program



Margherita said she enjoyed being able to “use creative aspects in our work but still being able to do something that’s going to teach people about Indigenous culture”.

Although taking a different path for her project designing a collection of earrings, sports tops and a totem pole, Charlotte said the tech tasters really helped her narrow down what she wanted to do and “you don’t realise how much you like it until you try it”.

“I liked all the different opportunities, and all the different schools collaborating together, making new friends, and learning of all the different cultural experiences,” she said.

We are so proud of all of the students who participated in this year’s Program, many of whom are already planning for their 2025 projects.



Congratulations on a great project Brooke!!

KEW Staff Forum - Shepparton

The recent Aboriginal workplace gathering provided a unique and enriching experience, bringing together colleagues from the NEVR Koorie Workforce and Regional staff to celebrate and immerse themselves in the rich cultural heritage of our First Nations peoples. This event not only fostered a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture but also emphasized our collective commitment to advancing the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan.



NEVR KEW staff at Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative

The day began with a traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, performed by respected Elders, Uncle Lance James and Auntie Cheryl Bourke of Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative.

Participants then engaged in on Country cultural experiences designed to deepen their appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal culture on Yorta Yorta country.

These experiences provided a powerful reminder of the profound connection between Aboriginal people and their land, enriching participants' perspectives and fostering a sense of unity and respect.

The gathering also served as a platform to collectively progress the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan, which aims to ensure that all Koorie Victorians achieve their learning aspirations. Through collaborative workshops and discussions, participants explored strategies to enhance educational outcomes for Aboriginal students.

Key areas of focus included:

Culturally inclusive curriculum: Developing and integrating educational content that reflects and respects Aboriginal history and culture.

Support for Aboriginal students: Identifying and implementing measures to support the academic and personal growth of Aboriginal students, ensuring they have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Collaborations: Strengthening ties with Aboriginal communities to foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment.

The discussions were insightful and productive, with attendees sharing best practices, challenges, and innovative ideas to drive the success of the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan.

By embracing the spirit of collaboration and respect, we can make significant strides in achieving the goals of the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan and ensure a brighter future for all Aboriginal students.

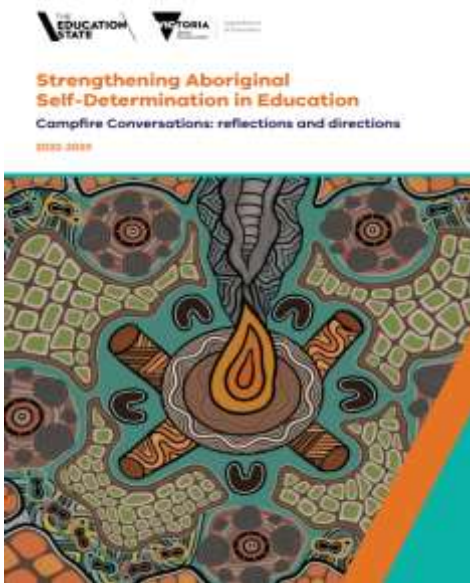


Angela Swindle & Trish Fahy presenting on Absent Data

Sincere thanks to Shane Mitchell

Outer East Marrung Lead Collaboration & Capability Building

The recent Marrung Lead Professional Learning Day was a significant event for educators dedicated to advancing Aboriginal education and fostering a more inclusive and supportive school environment. Bringing together school staff from various regions, the day was focussed on unpacking the recently released report on [Strengthening Aboriginal Self-Determination in Education](#). It was filled with insightful sessions and collaborative activities aimed at enhancing the capabilities of educators in alignment with the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan.



A highlight of the Marrung Lead Day was the presentation of best practices by schools that have successfully implemented initiatives to support Aboriginal education. These presentations showcased innovative strategies and programs that have made a tangible impact on student engagement and achievement. Educators shared their experiences, challenges, and successes, providing valuable insights and inspiration for others to adapt and implement similar practices in their own schools. Collaborative learning emphasised the power of shared knowledge and collective effort in driving educational excellence.

The day also featured workshops focused on ongoing curriculum and lesson planning resources, on how to integrate Aboriginal perspectives into everyday teaching practices. Attendees were introduced to a variety of resources, including culturally relevant lesson plans, teaching materials, and professional development opportunities.

Outer East Marrung Lead Collaboration & Capability Building

The Marrung Lead Day was not only an opportunity for professional development but also a chance to strengthen the network of educators committed to advancing Aboriginal education. The collaborative nature of the event encouraged the sharing of ideas, fostering a sense of community and mutual support. As educators return to their schools, they carry with them improved understandings, enhanced skills, new resources, and a renewed commitment to making a positive impact on the educational experiences of Aboriginal students.

One of the key topics of the day was the importance of building strong connections with local Aboriginal services. Representatives from Oonah Aboriginal Health & Community Services shared their knowledge and resources, highlighting the critical role these services play in supporting Aboriginal students and their families. Educators learned about the available support systems and how to effectively collaborate with these services to create a holistic and culturally responsive educational experience.



By focusing on collaboration, sharing best practices, and providing ongoing support, the Marrung Lead Day has equipped educators with the tools they need to drive meaningful change. The collective efforts of these dedicated professionals will continue to propel the goals of the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan, ensuring that all Aboriginal students have the opportunity to succeed and thrive in their educational journey.

Team effort by Trish and Outer East Koorie Education Workforce

Youth NAIDOC Ball

We are very excited to announce Oonah's Youth NAIDOC Ball will be returning for its third year in 2024!

Saturday July 27th at Karralyka Centre from 5pm-9pm.

There is a registration form to attend the Ball and a nomination form with all the categories listed. If you would like a copy of either, please contact Nikki Madgwick nikki.madgwick@oonah.org.au

Please send through Registrations to: events@oonah.org.au

Please send through Nominations to: youth@oonah.org.au



**YOUTH
NAIDOC
BALL 2024**

KEEP THE FIRE BURNING

**SAT JULY 27TH
KARRALYKA
5 PM -9 PM**

Please join us in celebrating our Young Mob's deadly achievements at the Oonah Youth NAIDOC Award Ceremony and Ball. This is for young people aged 7-17 years and their families in the Inner and Outer East.

**AWARD CEREMONY
RED CARPET
ENTERTAINMENT
DINNER AND SOFT DRINK
DRESS YOUR BEST**

FREE EVENT
To register please email: events@oonah.org.au for a Registration Form with YOUTH NAIDOC in the subject line

**Karralyka
Mines Rd, Ringwood**

OONAH
REGIONAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



Youth NAIDOCBall
2024 Flyer.pdf



Youth NAIDOC
Nomination Form 202



Youth NAIDOC
Registration Form 202

EMR NAIDOC Ball

Oonah are excited to announce that the amazing Mitch Tambo will be performing at this year's EMR NAIDOC Ball.

Mitch Tambo is Australia's unique and dynamic First Nations entertainer renowned as "the new voice of our generation". His debut album "Guurama-Li" topped the charts worldwide. His powerful renditions of iconic songs like "You're the Voice" at the historic Fire Fight Concert showcase his commitment to preserving Gamilaraay language and culture. His electrifying pop single "Yugal Yulugi" marked his tenth consecutive #1 iTunes Worldwide Chart success. He has received two Golden Guitar Award nominations and passionately supports various social causes.

Tickets are still available but almost sold out so jump online quickly and we'll see you there!

[Eastern Metropolitan Region NAIDOC "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak Loud & Proud!" Ball & Award Ceremony | Humanitix](#)

ANNOUNCING MITCH TAMBO!



Keeping Culture - Events | Activities | Stories



19Jun24 - Keeping
Culture - WEEKLY REL

PDF version attached. Huge range of activities for Youth. Links embedded in the headings.
Thanks to Community for sharing their initiatives.

- [24-hour telephone support services](#)
- [‘Run for Culture’ Fundraiser](#)
- [VIC NAIDOC 2024 Events Calendar](#)

Stories

Music - [Dunghala Children's Choir \(Video\)](#)

34 minute concert. Dhungala Children's Choir. Conducted by Ms Deborah Cheetham AO
Performed at the Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 8
November 2016.

Kids TV - [Grandpa Honeyant Storytime \(short episodes\)](#)

Grandpa Honeyant Storytime is a 25 episode series comprising of narrated stories told by an Elder
named Grandpa Honeyant. Early Stage 1 - Stage 1 English.

Media - [NAIDOC Week on SBS On Demand](#)

Join us in celebrating NAIDOC Week with this selection of iconic and award-winning Indigenous
films, documentaries and series.

Education - [ABC NAIDOC Week 2024 - Education Resources](#)

ABC Education is proud to again partner with the National NAIDOC Committee and Culture is Life
to develop the official National NAIDOC Education Resources for 2024, under the guidance of
Wiradjuri and Gamilaroi woman Aunty (Dr) Lynette Riley AO.

N.I.T - [Victoria to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12](#)

On Tuesday, the government announced a series of measures, as part of a standalone Youth
Justice Bill, which will see 10 and 11-year-olds no longer able to be arrested, charged, or
detained.

Treaty - [Treaty for Victoria - UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Covering all regions. Scroll to the bottom of the page for full list.

Youth Events & Notices

TERM 2 - VACCA East Playgroups

Come join the playgroup as we discover how Storytelling and sharing their story has strengthened our Elders, Community, and their Identity.

SURVEY - Youth Engagement Framework Questionnaire

Do you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young person aged 12 - 28 living in Victoria? Link above.

EOI - Museums Victoria First Peoples Cadetship Program 2024

We are excited for Expressions of interest from First Peoples youth aged 16-22. Whether you are enrolled in year 10, 11 or 12 you are encouraged to apply!

EOI - Koorie Youth Council Executive Committee

Looking for young mob aged between 16 – 25 at time of application. See link above for details & registration.

EOI - Looking to Learn some Deadly Skills? - MULLUM MULLUM

Mullum Creations is looking for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community aged 15+ who are looking to build their skills in making coffee, food handling, hospitality and customer service.

EOI - Brother to Brother Youth Directorate

We are seeking a young brother under age 25 years old for a chance to be commissioned for an artwork that represents (Mentoring, Support & Guidance) and how important those three elements are with personal journey and development.

Career - Yani Bangal First Peoples Scholarship Program 2024

This program provides scholarships in financial and career assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Secondary School/VCAL, TAFE, and University. Email firstpeoplescareers@transport.vic.gov.au for more information.

School Support – Financial Help for Families

Schools must prepare for and support families who are experiencing financial hardship in order to facilitate student participation in the full school program.

Kindergarten – Koorie Kids Shine

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children can get up to 15 hours of free or low cost kindergarten each week.

1 Jul - TV Casting Call - AUST WIDE

We are looking AUSTRALIA WIDE for the following roles in an exciting Australian TV series: Indigenous Girl 8 - 10 years of age. Indigenous Boy 10 - 12 years of age. PAID roles.

1 - 5 Jul - Indigenous Astrophysics Work Experience Program - HAWTHORN

The students will take part in week-long astrophysics research tasks, learn introductory coding, connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics to hear firsthand journeys into science and the university generally.

2 Jul - Eastern VACCA Mini Golf Family Day - CHIRNSIDE PARK

Please come along and join us for some school holiday FUN!

Community Events & Notices

28 - 30 Jun - Firelight Festival - MELBOURNE

Featuring local Community & Elders. See program for full details.

28 Jun - 13 Jul - VIC NAIDOC Community Events Calendar - VIC

Hey you Deadly Mob, we are excited to announce this years Victorian NAIDOC Calendar of events

2 Jul - First Nations Healthy Pathways Expo - KILSYTH

Information stalls, health checks, yarning circles, food & refreshments, door prizes & more!

10 Jul - Eastern VACCA Community Carnival Day - YARRA GLEN

Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Aunty Julie Coombes. Entertainment by Ganga Giri and Djarlo Dancers. Various Indigenous Arts and Crafts. Catered lunch provided.

13 Jul - Vic NAIDOC Gala Ball - MELBOURNE

We are excited to announce the MC's, Performances and Ticket Prices for the Vic NAIDOC 2024 GALA BALL!

13 Jul - NAIDOC at the NGV - MELBOURNE

In celebration of NAIDOC Week, join us at NGV Australia in Federation Square and enjoy a day of free live music, performances, film screenings, art, workshops, tours and drop-by drawing for all ages, and explore First Nations art in the latest exhibitions, My Country and Wurrdha Marra.

27 Jul - Mullum Mullum Trivia Night - RINGWOOD

Join us for a far-out 60s and 70s trivia night packed with funky tunes and groovy vibes. From peace signs to polyester, let's see if you're hip enough to rock this retro challenge! Get ready to jive, laugh, and maybe even do the hustle as we celebrate the coolest decades in history.

29 Jul - Sista's Healthy Yarning Circle - RINGWOOD

Calling all Mullum Women! Please see our NEW DATES for our Sista's Healthy Yarning Circle. Questions? Call Elisha on 0459 768 125.

26 Aug - Sista's Healthy Yarning Circle - RINGWOOD

Calling all Mullum Women! Please see our NEW DATES for our Sista's Healthy Yarning Circle. Questions? Call Elisha on 0459 768 125.

18 Oct - Fundraising Gala Event - MULLUM MULLUM

Save the Date. Join us on October 18th 2024 for an unforgettable evening filled with music, culture and celebration.

28 Oct - Sista's Healthy Yarning Circle - RINGWOOD

Calling all Mullum Women! Please see our NEW DATES for our Sista's Healthy Yarning Circle. Questions? Call Elisha on 0459 768 125.

28 Nov - Sista's Healthy Yarning Circle - RINGWOOD

Calling all Mullum Women! Please see our NEW DATES for our Sista's Healthy Yarning Circle. Questions? Call Elisha on 0459 768 125.

Scholarships

The Public Education Foundation has a range of scholarships to help young people at public schools reach their potential

Applications for Primary and Secondary school students are now open,

[Student Scholarships – Public Education Foundation](#)

[Yani Bangal First Peoples Scholarship Program 2024](#)

Contact Us

A/Koorie Education Coordinator (KEC)



**Lea Jones, Yorta Yorta, Ngurai illam Wurrung
and direct descendant of Coranderrk**
Phone: 0459 901 705
E-mail: lea.jones@education.vic.gov.au

Koorie Education Support Officers (KESOs)



Angela Swindle, Wiradjuri
Yarra Valley Network
Mobile: 0436 852 082
E-mail: angela.swindle@education.vic.gov.au



Thomas Harrison, Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung
Maroondah Network
Phone: 0403 397 352
E-mail: thomas.harrison@education.vic.gov.au



**Lea Jones, Yorta Yorta, Ngurai illam Wurrung
and direct descendant of Coranderrk**
Knox Network
Phone: 0459 901 705
E-mail: lea.jones@education.vic.gov.au



Kelsey Leatham, Palawa
Dandenong Ranges Network
Phone Number: 0499 786 210
E-mail: kelsey.leatham@education.vic.gov.au