



# Outer East KESO Team Newsletter

24<sup>th</sup> March 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 first edition of the KESO Newsletter for 2024.

In this edition you will see some wonderful examples of the incredible work that is taking place in the Outer East. Thank you to those that provided the articles and photos and congratulations to all that have been involved. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best for a well-deserved break over the holiday period with family and friends.

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](#) website.

The KESO's will be on leave from Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2024, returning on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2024. If you need to get in contact during this time, please feel free to email [nevr.koorie.outereast@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:nevr.koorie.outereast@education.vic.gov.au)

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## Good News Stories – Term 1 Reflection

Indigenous Year 8 student, Amber from Monbulk College, was a proud recipient at the 6<sup>th</sup> Koorie Art Show Young Mob presented by the Koorie Heritage Trust. The Art Show aimed to celebrate the excellence of artists aged between 5 to 16 years and displayed the great skill and creativity of our young mob.

Amber described her art saying:

*“I drew this because of a traditional Aboriginal story I read when I was younger about colourless birds getting colour. It really inspired me to make this artwork because it reminded me of my home and my culture.”*

Terrific work Amber! 😊



### 6TH KOORIE ART SHOW YOUNG MOB

The KHT is pleased to present the 6<sup>th</sup> Koorie Art Show Young Mob, celebrating the excellence of artists aged between 5 and 16 years. These diverse artworks show the great skill and creativity of our young mob.

The KHT congratulates and thanks all the participating young mob.

Ngoon Godjin | Thank You

## Yarning Circles

Term 1 featured a massive rollout of Yarning Circles across the area. Schools including Bimbadeen Heights Primary School, Ringwood Secondary College, Kilsyth Primary School, Lilydale Heights College, Lilydale High School, Mooroolbark College and Upper Yarra Secondary College all held a Yarning Circle for their Indigenous students.

The yarning circle is a harmonious, creative, and collaborative way of communicating to:

- Encourage responsible, respectful, and honest interactions between participants, building trusting relationships.
- Foster accountability and provide a safe place to be heard and to respond.
- Promote interactions and community connections.

## Marrung Leads in NEVR Schools

'Marrung' is the Department of Education (DE) Aboriginal Education Plan to ensure that all Indigenous Victorians achieve their learning aspirations. The Marrung Education Plan is aimed at improving performance and success of Koorie students in Victoria and close the gap in their educational outcomes.

The introduction of the Marrung Lead commitment assists to support better Koorie student and family engagement and learning through strong advocacy for a whole of school approach utilising the Individual Education Plan (IEP) as the fundamental key platform to improve learning and engagement.

The 'Term 1 Outer East Marrung Lead Collaboration and Capability Day' with our Marrung Area Implementation Team and Koorie Education Workforce was held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March and was positively attended by many schools within the area.



*"Great session. Lots of opportunities to network and collaborate with neighbouring specialist schools. Also great to have access to so many resources. Looking forward to exploring."*

*"As a new member of the Marrung Leader role. You really explained the role well and I felt empowered to go and help my school, as well as working with you all."*

- Top Left: Colleen Garner (Koorie Education Coordinator)
- Top Right: Patricia Fahy (Planning and Implementation Manager)
- Bottom Left: Brooke Kogelman (Manager, Lilydale District and Yara Valley Education Plan)
- Bottom Right: Angela Swindle (Koorie Engagement Support Officer)



## Collaborative Indigenous Strategy

# Yarra Ranges Tech School (YRTS) Koorie Student Program

The Lilydale District and Yarra Valley Education Plan's Yarra Ranges Tech School Program once again has kicked off with an AMAZING start. This program involves students from Mooroolbark College, Upper Yarra Secondary College, Lilydale High School, Lilydale Heights College, Healesville High School, Yarra Hills Secondary College and Bayswater Secondary College.



The Tech School program provides an opportunity for the Koorie students that attend the six schools as part of the Education Plan to come to the YRTS on five occasions to work on their design and project.

They develop an idea that is of interest to them and use the Design Thinking Process to find a solution to their problem. This involves developing their idea, finding solutions to the problem, and then testing and prototyping on the array of technology available at the Tech School.

Day 1 to 3 were a huge success with presentations from Zach Prior (Deadly Science), Jade Haar, Cameron Briscoe and Winston Lewinsmith (National Australia Bank).

## 2024 Formula 1 Grand Prix Experience

On Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, several students from the Lilydale District and Yarra Valley Education Plan had the deadly opportunity to participate in an exciting extra-curricular experience attending the 2024 Formula 1 Grand Prix at Albert Park.



In collaboration with Deadly Science, the Australian Grand Prix Corporation crafted a unique experience that highlighted the innovation in Formula 1 whilst simultaneously enriching students' understanding of what goes on behind the scenes at one of the world's major sporting events and showcasing the pathway opportunities available through the Grand Prix.

Across the day students were able to participate in a full day of interactive workshops with First Nations scientists and joined in a sit-down interview with both the Red Bull Team drivers, Max Verstappen and Sergio Perez and the Williams Team drivers, Logan Sargeant and Alexander Albon. They also had a guided tour of the Supercar Pits and spoke with mechanics from the Shell V-Power Racing Team about the previous days' race.

***DeadlyScience wants to ensure all schools have access to our history of science by providing resources that connect schools to the First Scientists of Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.***

Their aim is to provide science books and early reading material to remote schools in Australia. They have shipped over 25,000 books, 700 telescopes, 10,000 Lego kits and other STEM resources over 180 communities, with more to come.

A big shout out and thanks goes to the team at DeadlyScience for providing this fantastic opportunity for our Koorie students.



# DEADLY YOUNG LEADERS

Calling all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identified High School Students!

Are you ready to embark on an empowering journey towards leadership, strength, and creativity?

**Leadership skills**  
**Cultural pride and awareness**  
**Artistic expression and creativity**  
**Lifelong friendships and Community support**

**2024 Term 2**  
**Thursday 4 pm - 6 pm**



### **Boxing & Personal Training Sessions:**

Build your physical strength through engaging boxing and personal training sessions. Learn valuable skills, boost your confidence in a supportive and encouraging environment.  
Location: Upper Yarra Secondary College



### **Tattoo Art Workshop:**

Dive into the world of artistic expression with our exclusive tattoo art workshop. Led by a seasoned professional tattooist, this workshop offers an in-depth exploration into the fascinating industry and art of tattooing.  
Location: Oonah Healesville

**Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to become a Deadly Young Leader! Spaces are limited, so register now to secure your spot. For more information and registration, contact**

**[programs@oonah.org.au](mailto:programs@oonah.org.au)**  
**0492 129 992**



**OONAH**  
ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

**[oonah.org.au](http://oonah.org.au)**



# DEADLY YOUNG LEADERS

2024 Term 2 Thursday 4 pm - 6 pm

## APRIL

Thursday 18th - Boxing/PT Training  
Upper Yarra Secondary College

## MAY

Thursday 2nd -Tattoo Art Oonah Healesville

Thursday 9th - Boxing/PT Training  
Upper Yarra Secondary College

Thursday 16th - Tattoo Art Oonah Healesville

Thursday 23rd - Boxing/PT Training  
Upper Yarra Secondary College

Thursday 30th- Q and A with Ricky Coranderrk

## JUNE

Thursday 6th - Boxing/PT Training  
Upper Yarra Secondary College

Thursday 13th - Tattoo Art Oonah Healesville

Thursday 20th - Boxing/PT Training  
Upper Yarra Secondary College

Thursday 27th - End of Term Breakup



**OONAH**  
ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

## 2024 Significant Dates

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESOURCES</u>
<b><u>TERM 1</u></b>		
<u>13<sup>th</sup> February</u>	<u>National Apology Day</u>	<u>National Apology   The Healing Foundation</u>
<u>Third Thursday in March (21<sup>st</sup> March in 2024)</u>	<u>Close the Gap</u>	<a href="#"><u>CLOSE THE GAP</u></a>
<b><u>TERM 2</u></b>		
<u>26<sup>th</sup> May</u>	<u>National Sorry Day</u>	<u>National Sorry Day – a time for all Australians to commit to healing the nation   The Healing Foundation</u>
<u>*27<sup>th</sup> May</u>	<u>Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum</u>	<u>The 1967 Referendum   AIATSIS</u>
<u>27<sup>th</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June</u>	<u>Reconciliation Week.</u> <u>2024 theme: Now More Than Ever.</u>	<a href="#"><u>Home - Reconciliation Australia</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Reconciliation Victoria</u></a>
<u>*3<sup>rd</sup> June</u>	<u>Mabo Day</u>	<u>Mabo Day - Deadly Story</u>
<u>*Bookends Reconciliation week</u>		
<b><u>Term Break</u></b>		
<u>1<sup>st</sup> July</u>	<u>Coming of the Light Festival (Torres Strait)</u>	<u>Coming of the Light - Deadly Story</u>
<u>Begins first Sunday in July (7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July in 2024)</u>	<u>NAIDOC Week.</u> <u>2024 theme: Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud.</u>	<a href="#"><u>NAIDOC</u></a>
<b><u>TERM 3</u></b>		
<u>4<sup>th</sup> of August</u>	<u>National Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Children's Day</u>	<a href="#"><u>National Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (aboriginalchildrensday.com.au)</u></a>
<u>9<sup>th</sup> August</u>	<u>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples</u>	<u>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples   United Nations</u>
<u>First Wednesday in September (4<sup>th</sup> September in 2024)</u>	<u>Indigenous Literacy Day</u>	<a href="#"><u>News &amp; events   Indigenous Literacy Foundation</u></a>
<u>TERM 4: no significant dates.</u>		



## Contact Us

### Koorie Education Coordinator (KEC)



**Colleen Garner, Mara**  
**Phone:** 0428 929 577  
**E-mail:** [colleen.garner@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:colleen.garner@education.vic.gov.au)

### Koorie Education Support Officers (KESOs)



**Angela Swindle, Wiradjuri**  
Yarra Ranges Network  
**Phone:** 0436 852 082  
**E-mail:** [angela.swindle@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:angela.swindle@education.vic.gov.au)



**Thomas Harrison, Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung**  
Maroondah Network  
**Phone:** 0476 247 980  
**E-mail:** [thomas.harrison@education.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kelsey.leatham@education.vic.gov.au)

## Community Contact Details

Below are links and phone numbers to local Aboriginal Community Organisations. The QR codes that will take you to their websites, and the Department of Education site, where you can find information about the programs and support on offer.



[Oonah Aboriginal Health and Community Services](#)

Phone: (03) 5962 2940

[Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place](#)

Phone: (03) 9725 2166



[Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency \(VACCA\)](#)

Phone (03) 8727 0200

[Aboriginal Health Team, Eastern Health](#)

Phone: (03) 5957 1100



[Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service](#)

Phone (03) 9212 0200

[Department of Education](#)

Phone: 1800 338 663





## 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.

Framed around significant events throughout the calendar year, the interactive [Koorie Education Calendar \(2024\)](#) 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](mailto: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](mailto:lea.jones@education.vic.gov.au)