



WINDA-MARA

DECEMBER 2023



JOB VACANCIES

No current vacancies

Contact People & Culture for more info

MEDICAL CLINIC HOURS

Please note that changes to days/hours can occur at any time so please contact our medical receptions for availability.

HEYWOOD

Tuesday	10am-4pm	Dr Nicole Kerr
Wednesday	9am-5pm	Dr Christine Wilson
Thursday	9am-5pm	Dr Christine Wilson
Friday (fortnightly)	9am-5pm	Dr Christine Wilson

HAMILTON

Monday	9am-5pm	Dr Frank Fox
Tuesday	9am-5pm	Dr Frank Fox
Wednesday	9am-5pm	Dr Frank Fox
Thursday	9am-5pm	Dr Nicole Kerr

ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES

Allied Health Services are available to community members including massages, podiatry, optometry, and audiology. Check our health section for available dates, and call either of our medical receptions to book your appointment.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH!

Willarn Playgroup (excl. holidays)
Mondays 11am-1pm (Hey)
Hamilton currently on hold

Cultural Studies (excl. holidays)
Mondays 3:15pm - 5pm (Hey)
Thursdays 3:30pm - 5pm (Ham)

Breakfast Club (Hey)
Thursdays
8am

Women's Group (Ham)
Thursdays
11am - 2pm

Podiatrist (Ham)
Thursday 7th Dec
1:30pm - 5pm

Surf Day (Bridgewater)
Tuesday 9th Dec
1pm - 3pm

HAPEE/Elders Audiologist (0-6, 50+)
Thursday 14th Dec (Hey)
9:30am - 3:30pm

Youth Drop-In Centre (Hey)
Tuesdays/Wednesdays
3:30pm - 5:30pm

Fridays
3:30pm - 6:30pm

Recovery Group
Mondays 11am - 12:30pm (Hey)
Wednesdays 2pm - 3:30pm (online)

Massages (fortnightly)
Wednesdays 6th & 20th Dec (Hey)
Friday 8th Dec (Ham)
10am-3:30pm (Hey), 10am-4:30pm (Ham)

Community Christmas Party! (mission)
Friday 8th Dec
4:30pm - 7pm

Dietitian (Ham)
Cooking Class!
Monday 11th Dec
1pm - 4pm

Winda-Mara will be closed from 3pm Friday 22nd December and reopen Monday 8th January 2024.



CONTACT US!

Join our Mailing List or update your details on our website!

Heywood (Main Office)
P: 03 5527 0000

Heywood (Medical)
P: 03 5527 0060

Hamilton (Medical)
P: 03 5527 0090

Heywood (Main Office & Medical)
21 Scott St (PO Box 42)
Heywood VIC 3304

Land Management
598 Henty Highway
Portland VIC 3305

www.windamara.com.au



Hamilton (Medical Clinic)
107 Thompson St
Hamilton VIC 3300

Hamilton Community Services & Family Services Office
333 Nth Boundary Rd (HIRL Studio Room)
Hamilton VIC 3300

Find us on Facebook/Instagram!

STAFF UPDATES

Ngatanwarr!

Emma Lynch has recently come on as our new Family Violence Case Management Practitioner. This position provides crisis intervention and case management supports to victims of family violence and their families. She will aim to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's access to the program through the provision of culturally safe and appropriate services and community development activities, promote client safety, self-determination and wellbeing.

Tyleah Barr & Kyambah Barker have both recently completed year 12 and have shown initiative to gain some new skills and experience to get ready for the

workforce. Both working as Administrators they will continue to assist Managers with day to day tasks over multiple departments and locations.

Djakira Hope has recently been promoted within the Social Emotional Wellbeing Team since her recent graduation with a Certificate in Mental Health, moving into the role of Youth Health and Wellbeing Counsellor. We look forward to seeing Djakira in her role supported our young mob.

Wurruk!

Sunniva Zoete finished up with us in her role as People and Culture Manager which she held for the last 18 months.

WINDA-MARA COMMUNITY

Christmas Party!

Friday 8 December 4:30pm-7pm
LAKE CONDAH MISSION

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

BBQ Dinner, presents for the kids, games to play and more!

SANTA VISIT!

SLIP & SLIDE!

PRIZES TO WIN!

Our Christmas party is open to Winda-Mara members and clients.

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Coleraine Kindergarten and staff made this pretty deadly cultural Christmas decorations this year for their service. Coleraine Kindergarten teacher Corrina, her staff and children are always looking for ways to embed cultural practices in their services and we look forward to continuing in this journey with them.

For any of our mob that would like to assist us in providing cultural education and support to our local early learning centres, contact our Wayipungitj (KPSA) Tash on 0448 032 788 or email tashn@windamara.com

Tash with Good Shepherd on an IPA tour with our Rangers



KARREETA KOORNONG MAAR

Indigenous Surf & Beach Day!

Tuesday 9 January 1-3pm

CAPE BRIDGEWATER



All surf equipment will be supplied. You will need to bring bathers, towel, sunscreen, water bottle and a change of clothes. Lunch and snacks provided. Transport available for youth 12-25 years from Heywood, Hamilton and Portland.

RSVP by
Fri 8 Dec

CONTACT
Tayla Wakely
5527 0077
taylawakely@windamara.com

BREAKFAST CLUB!

Thursday mornings
8am (pick-ups from 7:45am)
at the Drop-In Centre

31 Edgar St Heywood

Kinder drop-off 8:30am
School drop-off 8:40am

CONTACT

Sarah Wilson
0447 665 443
sarahwilson@windamara.com

Text if pickup is required

YOUTH DROP-IN CENTRE TERM 4

TUESDAYS
3:30pm - 5:30pm

WEDNESDAYS
3:30pm - 5:30pm

FRIDAYS
3:30pm - 6pm

Our drop-in centre is a safe space to hang out with plenty of things to do including art, homework space, laptops, games, music equipment, cooking and having a feed, being creative and so much more, so come say hi to our youth team!

Our Drop-In Centre is open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous Youth 12-25



WINDA-MARA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
WORK & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Do you have fines?

By joining the Worker Development Program, you can work off your fines at \$49p/h through activities such as:

- Unpaid work/cultural activities including Arts, Crafts and Traditional Artefact Creation
- Treatment given by a doctor, nurse or psychologist
- Courses - including educational, vocational or life skill courses
- Counselling, including financial counselling
- Drug or alcohol counselling
- Mentoring (if you are under 25 years of age)
- Service Engagement and Referral

For more info contact Grant Roberts, Local Justice Worker
03 5527 0053 | grantroberts@windamara.com

CONTACT
Tayla 5527 0077
youth@windamara.com

31 Edgar St Heywood

FAMILY CENTRED APPROACH PROGRAM

The Family Centred Approach program aims to empower and further strengthen Aboriginal families with an individual member engaged in or at risk of engagement with the justice system.

The service will support the families of a range of groups, depending on the needs in the region.

This role will leverage the natural role and strength of Aboriginal families, with culture as a critical protective factor for all family members, to support better outcomes for individual family members.

There will be a range of supports available to families and/or through referrals to local services. The type of supports and intensity will vary depending on the needs of the family and the region where the service model is being delivered.

Examples of supports that may be provided include building understanding and knowledge of the justice system, system navigation, case planning and management, and cultural capacity building.

Service support areas

- Families Involved with the Justice system
- Case Co-ordination support
- Gap identification and support
- Brokerage support
- Justice Navigation
- Referral Service
- Housing Support – where Applicable
- Family Violence support
- Cultural Connection Planning and Support
- Return to Country support and Advocacy
- Family Planning
- Help addressing Crisis Issues
- Goal Setting and Assessment
- Job Seeking and Job Readiness Support

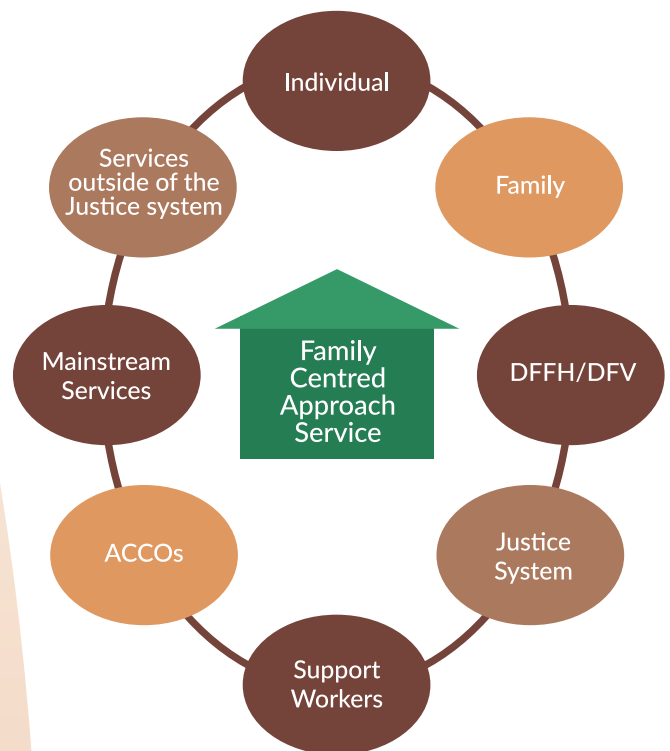
AGE GROUP ELIGIBILITY

Young people (aged 10-18)
Young parent(s) (aged 19-24)
engaged in the youth and
adult justice systems

Types of service include group-based work, family mediation, Elder input and warm referrals.

Eligibility, intake and assessment will use a whole of family and strengths based approach. Once a family has been referred into the service, there will be an assessment process to identify and agree on family goals and support needs.

The safety of individual family members will be a priority throughout.



Richard Bamblett
Case Co-ordinator
0473 802 799
richardbamblett@windamara.com

Jodie Lovett
Cultural Broker
0415 759 451
jodielovett@windamara.com



YOUR ATSI HEALTH CHECK



- ✓ **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**
- ✓ **Have a Medicare card**

You're eligible for a yearly ATSI Health Check!

Supporting health with free annual health checks

This health check is important. It can help identify whether you're at risk of illnesses or chronic conditions. It's much easier to prevent these than to treat them, so catching them early can make a big difference.

If you have a chronic condition, your health check can help make sure you are getting the medication and care you need.

You can also ask your doctor about anything you're worried about or need help with.

Your doctor can only do this health check if you agree. You can have it every 9 to 12 months, and it's free at any Aboriginal Medical Service or bulk-billing clinic.

After your health check, your doctor can refer you to up to 10 free follow-up services if needed, like:

- a specialist or another health service
- a counsellor
- a service that works to prevent chronic conditions.

What happens at a free annual health check

Your health check can take up to an hour. As well as the doctor, you might also see a nurse, an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health worker or another health practitioner. Your check will depend on your age and circumstances, but your health professional might:

- check your blood pressure
- check blood sugar levels
- measure your height and weight
- do a blood test
- do a urine test
- ask about the health of your family
- talk to you about your health priorities and goals
- do other tests, as needed.

Remember that it's your check, so have a yarn with your health worker about any worries you have.



Please contact our Medical Clinics to book your ATSI Health Check appointment today!
Heywood 5527 0060, Hamilton 5527 0090



**Your health is
in your hands!**

HEALTH

ALLIED HEALTH VISITS

PODIATRIST
(Hamilton)

Thursdays
1:30pm-5pm

7th Dec
25th Jan

DIETITIAN
(Hamilton)

Mondays
1pm-5pm

11th Dec
15th Jan

OPTOMETRIST
(Glen Howell - Hamilton)

Fridays
9am - 12pm

2nd Feb
1st Mar

OPTOMETRIST
(Penry Rousten - Heywood)

Fridays

5th Mar
30th Apr

AUDIOLOGIST
(Tim Rayner, 0-21)

Wednesdays
9:15am-12:15pm (Hey)
1:30pm-4pm (Ham)

6th Mar
30th Apr

**HAPEE/ELDERS
AUDIOLOGIST**
(0-5, 50+)

Thursdays
9:30am-3:30pm

14th Dec (Hey)

MASSAGES
(fortnightly)

(Heywood)
Wednesdays
10am-3:30pm

6th Dec
20th Dec

(Hamilton)
Fridays
10am-4:30pm

8th Dec

Congratulations to Aunty Tina Wright, Aunty Margaret Ferguson, Djakira Hope and Jess Lovett-Murray on their recent graduation with certificates gained in the health space completed through VACCHO's training services!



CHRISTMAS HEALTHY COOKING!

Monday 11 December 1-4pm
HIRL, 333 N Boundary Rd Hamilton

- 👉 Healthy Cooking with Dietician Dr Danielle Lee
- 👉 All food will be supplied
- 👉 Healthy recipes to take home
- 👉 Space may be limited, so RSVP to Aunty Tina 5527 0090 tinaw@windamara.com

GET YOUR SWIM ON AT THE HEYWOOD POOL!

Summer season is fast approaching and Winda-Mara have free swimming memberships to give away to the Heywood Pool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who have completed their 715 health check!

Please contact Fran or Jess to register for a membership on 5527 0060 or email jesslovettmurray@windamara.com

This limited offer is only available until Wednesday 20 December 2023 and is only for the 23/24 summer season.

Book your 715 health check today!
Heywood 5527 0060
Hamilton 5527 0090



BOOK YOUR 715 HEALTH CHECK AND GET YOUR
PATTY MILLS DEADLY BOOMERS #5 SINGLET!

Patty Mills Deadly Boomers #5 Singlets will be available at Winda-Mara in December when you complete your 715 Health Check!



BOOK NOW!
Heywood 5527 0060
Hamilton 5527 0090

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR 715 HEALTH CHECK?

Here is our deadly client Luke Hemple showing off his Patty Mills Singlet as an incentive for completing his health check. Congratulations to Luke for making better outcomes for his health!

Heywood 03 5527 0060
Hamilton 03 5527 0090



WINDA-MARA'S SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING TEAM



Your health is
in your hands!

OUR TEAM

- Two AOD Counselors
- Dual Diagnosis Counselor
- Mental Health Social Worker
- Youth Mental Health Support Worker
- Psychologist
- Health Support Worker
- Community Transport Driver
- SMART Recovery Group

Mondays 11am-12:30pm Heywood
Wednesdays 2pm-3:30pm online

We provide free, confidential, and culturally safe mental health and alcohol and drug counseling services to Indigenous clients and their family members.

5527 0060 21 Scott St Heywood
5527 0090 107 Thompson St Hamilton

CONTACT
0429 961 474
(SEWB Mobile)

SMART RECOVERY GROUP

Come yarn with mob who are having a hard time managing their alcohol and drug use in a supportive, no shame environment.

HEYWOOD

Mondays

11am - 12:30pm
21 Scott St

ONLINE

Wednesdays

2pm - 3:30pm
Details available
from Riana

starts
Mon 4 Dec

starts
Wed 6 Dec

HELP EACH OTHER WITH

- motivation
- learning skills to cope with cravings
- managing thoughts and behaviours
- balancing lifestyle

Lunch provided at
Heywood group.

CONTACT
Riana Beardsell
0493 228 960

 **SMART Recovery**
Life beyond addiction



KOORI MATERNITY SERVICES

Koori Maternity Services (KMS) is a program for Indigenous pregnant women or women who are carrying Indigenous babies. Our nurse Kristy and the midwife Fiona from Gunditjmara work closely with the client's nominated hospital to ensure culturally safe, appropriate, and best practice antenatal care is achieved.

Contact our medical clinics on 5527 0060
in Heywood and 5527 0090 in Hamilton.

ABORIGINAL MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH

Aboriginal Maternal & Child Health (AMCH) is a newly funded program in which our nurse Kristy will be working alongside the local councils to improve the health outcomes and participation of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander under 5-year-olds in the space of Maternal and Child Health. The AMCH nurse attends Winda-Mara once a month or the clinic can be visited anytime.



FAMILY SERVICES

If you or your loved ones are affected by loss or need any other mental health support, please know that help is available.

- Winda-Mara Social Emotional Wellbeing Team 0429 961 474
- 13YARN - ATSI Crisis Support 13yarn.org.au
- Lifeline 13 11 14 lifeline.org.au
- National Indigenous Suicide Postvention Service 1800 805 801 thirrili.com.au
- Police Assistance Line and Online Reporting 131 444 police.vic.gov.au
- Beyond Blue 1300 606 024 beyondblue.org.au



Feeling down at Christmas and New Year?

The close of another year often prompts people to reflect on their achievements – or disappointments – over the previous 12 months. Some people mourn the loss of another year of their lives.

There are things you could do to reflect on your year and prepare for the next. Suggestions include:

- Make a conscious effort to list all the positive things you did or experienced during the year.
- If possible, mend fences. Contact those people you miss and make steps towards reconciliation.
- Appreciate that your feelings may be due to a combination of Christmas-related factors including money worries, the pressure of last-minute shopping and unrealistic expectations of festive cheer. Remind yourself that many of these negative feelings will pass once the New Year is underway or even by tomorrow.
- People often make unrealistic New Year's Eve resolutions. This year, try to come up with positive and achievable goals for the upcoming 12 months.





16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 2023.

This initiative runs every year from 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (Human Rights Day).

We all deserve to be safe, equal and respected. But on average, a woman in Australia is killed by a man they know every 10 days. It doesn't have to be this way. During the 16 Days of Activism,

communities around the world join the call to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls.

Our Family Services Unit hosted two Walk Against Family Violence events alongside our Community Dinners in Heywood and Hamilton. We had a great turn out at both events and were able to share more information on the 16 days of activism and what we can do to end Family Violence.

WINDA-MARA TOY & FOOD DRIVE

Donations for our Boori's

Family Services are looking for donations of food and toys for Kinship Children in Care and Family Services clients for Christmas

Toys to be new, food non-perishable

Donations to 107 Thompson St Hamilton
Our HIRL Office 333 N Boundary Rd Hamilton
Family Services Office 16 Lindsay St Heywood

Donations to be in by Friday 15th December

Thank you for your continued support!



WINDA-MARA FAMILY VIOLENCE UNIT

Free specialist family violence services to all members of our community who have experienced any form of family violence.

ngootyoonooyt ba peeneeyt - 'safe and strong'

How can we help?

- Assessing Risk & Safety Planning
- Family Violence Education
- Connection with Counselling & Support
- Advocacy & Referrals
- Making Your Home Safe
- Connection with Legal & Court Support
- Case Management - Long or Short Term

Contact for support

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members can contact Winda-Mara's Family Violence Unit on 03 5527 0020 or 03 5527 0000.

Otherwise, the Warrnambool Orange Door is the main entry point for people seeking family violence support. Call 1800 271 180.

Please note - Winda-Mara and the Orange Door do not provide a 24-hour crisis response service.

After-hours support

Safe Steps 1800 015 188	1800 RESPECT 1300 737 732	Men's Line 1300 789 978
Lifeline 13 11 14	Djirra 1800 888 236	Dardi Munwurro 1800 435 799

If you are in immediate danger call Triple Zero (000)

Have you ever thought about becoming a
RESPITE CARER?

Call 03 5527 0000 to talk to our Family Services Team

Winda-Mara are in need of new Respite and Emergency Carers

Care can look how you want it to look. One weekend a month, once a fortnight, or time during the school holidays. Help our kids remain connected to community, by supporting our long-term carers to give them a short break.

Kinship carers keep our children connected to
Family, Community and Culture.

Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC)



What is ACAC?

The Victorian Government is committed to the self-determination of Aboriginal people and their communities. It is recognised this will require new ways of working and enduring partnership between government, community organisations and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCO's). Section 18 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* discusses giving full power (secretary power) to ACCO's of Aboriginal children on any protection order. This is essentially what Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care is. Aboriginal Children on the following orders can be managed without Child Protection services through Winda-Mara.

Family Preservation Order

The court has decided that the child/ren need protection but can safely stay in their parents' care while protective concerns are being addressed. The department needs to monitor and support the family to meet the protective concerns. Court conditions apply on this order as a pathway for the family to meet.

Family Reunification Order

The court has decided that the child/ren need protection and cannot safely stay in their parents' care while protective concerns are being addressed. Parental responsibility is given to the secretary, with limitation that parents' agreement is needed about major issues. Court order conditions apply, and the child will stay in out-of-home care with the objective to reunify within 12 months or up to 24 months where permanent reunification is likely by then.

Care By Secretary Order

The court has decided that Family reunification will not be achieved in a timely way for the child/ren, or the child/ren has been in out of home care for 24 months and cannot safely return to parental care. This order means that the Secretary has parental responsibility for the child/ren, and all decision making of the child/ren to the exclusion of all others, for two years. Usually, the objective is to find a permanent or long-term carer for the child, preferably with extended family, or if not, with another family as soon as possible. In exceptional circumstances, the objective may still be family reunification.

Long-Term Care Order

The Court has decided that the child needs a long-term care arrangement, that there is a long-term carer suitable to raise the child. The Secretary has parental responsibility, to the exclusion of all others, until the child's 18th birthday. This court order is made until the child's 18th birthday.

What does that mean?

Winda-Mara would make all decisions for children on orders with the guidance of family. Whilst children are on protection orders Winda-Mara become the secretary and Child Protection are no longer involved with the case.

What would ACAC look like for Winda-Mara?

The ACAC team would be able to offer families with children on protection orders the following:

- Case planning and Cultural planning
- Support for the child's out of home care arrangement
- Case management
- Relevant legal service
- Referral to and coordination with Winda-Mara and other services
- Support children to remain with their families or be safely reunited

Winda-Mara would not need to seek permission from the department for endorsements of Case planning and case direction, this authority would sit with Winda-Mara.

What are the current issues for our children being case managed by DFFH?

- Not using culturally information practice all the time for all our kids.
- DFFH case managers in our area are holding 25+ cases each, Meaning there is limited contact and support to parents and children due to extremely high caseloads.
- Due to DFFH high case loads and limited time, contact visits are shorter or held within the department building.
- DFFH do not have the knowledge of our families, at times they are too busy to seek out this information from ACCO's, whereby ACCO's have or are building safety plans and supporting the family.
- Parents are fearful of the department.



What are the benefits of Winda-Mara being the authorisers of our children on Protection orders?

- Winda-Mara would ensure culturally safe practice and planning.
- If we implement ACAC each case manager can only have 9 cases at one time, meaning ability to provide high level support the child and to families. Keeping in mind that our focus is on the best interest of the child/ren
- We would support safe, regular contact with family members in consultation with family and ensure culturally informed contact visits.
- We would be transparent with families to have open, honest and clear communication. There will be no “tricks or shocks” for families, they will not be “blindsided”.
- This will be mob looking after mob, ensuring our children's safety and supporting parents with education and advice and wrap around support services to have their children home.
- Our families will be responded to on that day and will be heard.

What are the concerns for Winda-Mara having this program?

- Children on a family preservation order where a parent might have a major breach, Winda-Mara would need to have the conversations about the child going to Aunty or Uncle... home until they get back on track. (Child removal)
- Winda-Mara would hold and mediate the risk, regarding child safety.
- Would community seek out supports from Winda-Mara if we have this program, would community become fearful of asking for help? (Keeping in mind that ACAC only works with families who are already on protection orders).

What would this look like for Winda-Mara?

Winda-Mara would be dedicated to:

- Bringing family together and listen to family's stories.
- Using family relationships to strengthen identity, culture and build resilience
- Providing support to families to be safe and stay together
- Listening to family's ideas
- Being led by families in relation to how they would like to spend time together.
- Advocating for safe reunification for families who are not together.
- Connection to culture and helping children grow up strong and connected.

What is Winda-Mara seeking?

Winda-Mara would like to complete the pilot ACAC program also known as pre-authorisation (“As if”) pilot.

This is a 12-month pilot which can then turn into the full ACAC program with a signed MOU with the department. Where we would then have full authorisation.

Summary

- Families can choose to stay with Child Protection or come across to ACAC.
- Winda-Mara has all authorisation and decision-making authority for the case.
- Families will no longer be required to talk with Child Protection.
- Winda-Mara would prioritise reunification and family care.

Questions to community

- Is this program something that the community would want?
- What are the concerns for community around this program?
- What other information do you want to know about this program?
- If this program was approved by the community what would the community like to call the program? Eg. VACCA have called their ACAC program Nugel, BDAC have called theirs Mutjang Bupuwingarrak Mukman.

CONTACT

Hannah Grayson
Family Services Manager
5527 0079
0497 745 115
hannahgrayson@windamara.com

Community Consultations have now been completed. Contact Hannah if you would like a 1:1 session.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Our Ranger team send their apologies, as they've been out and about and extra busy which means they haven't provided an update for the last few newsletters.

Matt our longstanding manager has taken long service leave and Ben has stepped up as acting manager and is doing a fantastic job.

Ben and Colleen, along with Uncle Denis, Erin, Aaron, and Micko from Gunditj Mirring attended and presented at the ICOMOS 21st General Assembly and Scientific Symposium in Sydney at the International Exhibition Centre. There was three Rangers groups & we spoke about the Indigenous Protected Areas that we work on. While we get to look out for snakes and leeches on Country, the northern Rangers have to look out for snakes and crocodiles.

We had our first Ranger exchange since 2019 with the Rangers flying into Gold Coast and heading down to Byron Bay and Coffs Harbor, meeting the amazing Mob of the Ngiyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation. One of the highlights of the trip was listening to storytelling in language and then retold in English.

Lashay and Colleen along with Erin and Aaron from Gunditj Mirring went to Canberra to celebrate the 25 years of Indigenous Protected Areas at Parliament House.

Indigenous Rangers from varying States attended, and it was interesting to hear from some of the other Ranger teams like Giringun Aboriginal Corporation, Ngiyambandigay Wajaarr Aboriginal Corporation, Karajarri Traditional Lands Association, Ngururpa Rangers, Northern Land Council, South East Arnhem Land and the Tiwi Rangers.

We got to meet Minister Tanya Plibersek, Senator Pocock, Senator Dorinda Cox, Minister Burney, and Senator McAllister. The Ngururpa Rangers, (Great Sandy Desert) have played a huge part in bringing back, nurturing and providing the habitat for the Night Parrot, a species that thought to be extinct 100 years ago. Definitely a happy moment. The other Rangers are

all quite keen to come for a visit down our way to see a koala.

Colleen and Erin from Gunditj Mirring travelled to a very warm Cairns to take part in the Cape York World Heritage Workshop. We had the opportunity to present the Gunditjmarra's path and journey onto World Heritage Listing and how we manage Indigenous Protected Areas on the lava flow. Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation, from Burrup Peninsula (former Dampier Island) presented their bid for World Heritage Listing of Sites that are of Outstanding Universal Value, for their amazing Rock Art which includes over a million individual works of art, stone arrangements, shell middens, and lithic (pertaining to or consisting of stone).

Cape York received Native Title last year and has continued to celebrate their success with an exploration of a potential nomination for the World Heritage Tentative List for the Natural and Cultural Values of Cape York Peninsula. The nomination will only proceed where Traditional Owners have given their consent. If the nomination is submitted it must be done by the February 1 and if accepted by UNESCO it may be adopted by the meeting of that year. Places must be included on the tentative for at least one year before a nomination is submitted. Good luck to Cape York Mob as we know how deadly it is to have World Heritage Listing!



During spring, and the weeds and grass are quick to return which means the whipper snippers, mower, slasher and sprayers have all been getting a really good workout.

Violet and Haylee recently completed their chainsaw course, which is fantastic. We love seeing the young women of our team step up and gain competence and confidence to use the tools.

We also now have Lashay the fire fighter, huge congrats to Lashay for passing the walk to qualify, the fire training and learning to drive 4x4. Lashay will now be able to be on "stand by" for fires on Gunditj Mirring.

Heath and Alyssa have both completed Cert IV in Cultural Heritage, their graduation day is coming up in December.

Huge congratulations to both.

And the good news just keeps coming, huge congrats to Violet on obtaining her licence. Huge thanks to Uncle Tony for his instructional driver learner sessions, with Violet being the 8th Ranger to have successfully gained their P plates.

The Rangers have also been out and about with Parks Victoria for their Springtime Koala program. The crew have been able to see orchids and a nice size tiger snake.

Plenty happening for the Rangers and we're looking forward to caring for country again in 2024!



OTHER NEWS

In collaboration with Koondoom Yarkeen & Kooyang Parreeyt Maar

GUNDITJMARA DANCE CAMP

22nd - 26th January 2024

Deen Maar IPA

All current and new dancers welcome

What to bring:

Swag/tent (if possible)

Sleeping bag

Drink bottle

Clothes for 5 days

Swimming gear

Dance gear

Old/reef shoes

For more info contact Troy Lovett or Jordan Edwards