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April/May 2026 Community Newsletter

Acting Chairperson Report

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of these shared lands. And recognise their kinship to the land and waterways of this area and honour their ongoing resilience and strength in the face of difficulties across generations. And to pay respects to all Elders, past present and emerging.

Recently at the Annual General Meeting, the Board put forward several suggested changes to the Moogji rule book (constitution) for consideration by members.

Some of these suggested considerations around Moogji were:

Editing the 'Purpose' of the organisation to make note of the work we undertake from Bonang Road:

'Supporting community members to achieve the best health and wellbeing outcomes, strengthening cultural and community connections and reaching employment and economic growth. Moogji are focusing on cultural heritage and caring for country, proving Elders to transfer knowledge to ensure community can practise culture. We also want to continue to provide quality service in a culturally safe environment with employment and training opportunities to support leadership and advocating for communities' needs and aspirations'.

Also, our Catchment area, with members residing in the far East Gippsland area of Victoria specifically from the eastern side of Nowa Nowa to the NSW border and including north in the mountains as far as Suggan Buggan.

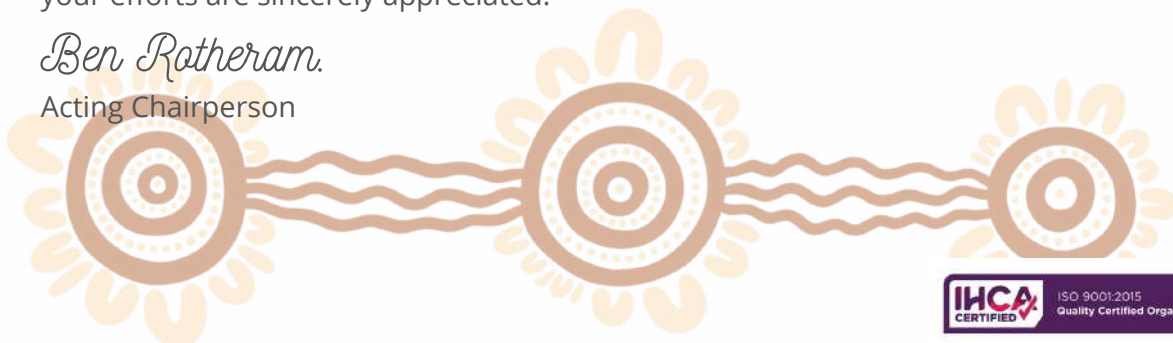
These suggested changes have been voted on at the AGM by members, if anyone would like further information regarding any of the new changes, please feel free to contact the Acting Chairperson and/or our CEO, Louise.

Furthermore, Opportunities have opened with two Vacant positions for Board of Directors, and I encourage those that are interested to please apply, once again if any further information is required about these position's, please feel free to inquire.

Lastly, I would like to reach out to all Moogji staff for all the great work they are doing, you have all been instrumental in your work and your work has not gone unnoticed you have all set a high standard for 2026, your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

Ben Rotheram.

Acting Chairperson



CEO Report

The youth wellbeing team have pulled together a fantastic range of activities over the school holidays, I think the kids will be going back to school for a rest!

The Elders Cultural events are continuing and will help Moogji capture and digitalise the stories of Elders for future generations. When the filming is finished, we will put the videos up on our website and let everyone know so they can watch them.

We are happy to have been successful in several funding submission and you will see Moogji responding to Community need in more ways in the future. Some of those include:

- Cancer Screening and education programs to help everyone understand what early screening is available and to support accessing those services. We are employing 2 staff to get this program running. There will be more information coming out as the staff commence in the roles.
- Journeys to Motherhood funding that will allow us to provide a stronger role in pre-pregnancy, pregnancy and post birth support for women in the Community.
- 4 new contracts (x2 with Parks Victoria and x2 with DEECA) for the Crew to continue to care for country have come in, and are keeping the Crew busy with a varied amount of work.

Moogji has been successful in negotiating an extra Public Housing home for Community in Orbost. This will be coming online over the coming weeks and is a result of our Advocacy about the Aboriginal Housing Victoria Homes which are 'offline' while they wait for repairs to meet the standards (which has been years now). Aunty Coral Harrison has been part of the team to secure this outcome.

Moogji is partnering with an Aboriginal Registered Housing Provider to put in a submission to the Housing Australia Future Fund to build 10 homes of varying sizes for community in Orbost. If we are successful, we hope to have the homes ready for tenants by 30 June 2029. While it sounds a long way away - and it probably is - at least we have started the journey and so we have our fingers crossed that the submission will be funded.

Moogji is self funding a Family Wellbeing Program to start to provide Family Violence Prevention programs. There is an Elder Steering Committee for this program and the first meeting for Elders to guide the work of the program took place a few weeks ago. The next meeting will be held in May- dates to be confirmed - and it is open to all Elders to participate and will be held every 2 months. The recruitment process for the role is almost complete and we hope to be able to introduce the new staff member soon.

The next Elders Steering Committee for the Family Violence Prevention Program will be held at Stanley Street from 2pm. All Elders are welcome to participate.

We have arranged training by VACCHO for all staff to participate in, which will help them assist clients who need to see if they can access the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme). After the training, all staff will be able to provide advice and support to Community to access the supports they should be getting

Louise Carey

Elders Yarning Circle

On Wednesday the 4th of March, Moogji Social Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB team) held an Elders Yarning Circle Luncheon at Moogji Operations Centre & Nursery (The Block, 291 Bonang Road, Orbost). This gathering provided space for Elders to come together, share stories, and discuss upcoming Community events.

The Yarning Circle was full of conversations, including what programs Elders would like to see implemented throughout the year.

With a walk around the Cultural Trail, the SEWB team mentioned that they would like to be able to film Elders sharing their knowledge and stories which would be placed on QR codes and displayed throughout the trail. This initiative aims to preserve and celebrate Cultural knowledge for the wider community.

The Elders Luncheon was the first of 4 Cultural events that will be held in the upcoming months. Please keep an eye out for future flyers.

Also, a shout out to Julie Wilson (Guiltfree Gourmet) for a delicious lunch!





DEADLY IN GIPPSLAND
FIRST NATIONS BUSINESS EXPO

Last month, members of the Bonang Environmental Crew, Brett, Nathan, and Samantha had the opportunity to attend the Deadly in Gippsland Expo, where they proudly showcased their knowledge, passion, and connection to native plants. Throughout the event, the team engaged with community members and visitors, sharing insights into a variety of native plant species and explaining how and where they grow best. Their hands-on approach and deep understanding sparked great interest, with many people keen to learn more about incorporating native plants into their own gardens and landscapes.

A highlight of the expo was the team's demonstration of dried native herbs, offering practical ideas on how these can be used in everyday cooking. From enhancing flavours to connecting people with traditional uses of native ingredients, this aspect of their showcase drew plenty of curiosity and conversation.

Beyond their own stall, Brett, Nathan, and Samantha also enjoyed connecting with other local businesses and organisations from across Gippsland. It was a valuable opportunity to build relationships, share knowledge, and celebrate the diverse work being done throughout the region.

Overall, the Deadly in Gippsland Expo was a fantastic experience for the Environmental Crew.



MOVE IT WEDNESDAY

Our very first Move It, Move It Wednesday was a wonderful success! Led by Susan, we kicked things off with an energising session of Chair Zumba, followed by a relaxing morning tea. The room was full of laughter, good energy, and plenty of smiles — a fantastic start to what's sure to become a favourite weekly activity.

Come join us every Wednesday from 9.30am-11am!



Practice Accreditation Survey Results

We would like to thank those that recently completed our patient feedback survey as part of our practice re-accreditation. We are very proud to share that 99% of all patient ratings were Good, Very Good or Excellent.

Here are the results of our recent

PATIENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

*Striving towards
excellence!*

99%

of all patient ratings about
this practice were **Good**,
Very Good or **Excellent**

The results of this survey will help us provide the **best possible service to you.**

We look to support community further in areas identified as a community need; access to home/other visits, accessing after-hours services and choice of doctor/nurse in the future.

Deadly Choices[®]

Moogji has partnered with Deadly Choices and we're now able to hand out some deadly shirts to our Aboriginal Community once you've had your 715 Health Check signed off by the doctor. As we have only recently partnered with Deadly Choices, we are unable to back date shirts for previous 715 Health Checks, but not to worry, you're eligible for a 715 Health Check every 9 months.

We have limited stock to order from, but we'd love some feedback on what teams you'd like to see, and we'll keep an eye out each time we put an order in. Here are the shirts we currently have:



Health Promotion Calendar

We're developing a 12-month health promotion calendar for 2026. We'd love to hear your feedback on what health topics you'd like to see us cover of the next 12 months.



Please scan the QR code to complete the survey.

There will also be paper copies available at reception

Do you want your Newsletters emailed to you instead of by mail?

Call reception on 5154 2133, to add your email address to the list



Doctor Sessions

Moogji has a doctor onsite every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, unless stated otherwise. We also have a nurse onsite daily. Please call reception to book an appointment.

If you have not yet completed your New Patient Registration Form and Transfer of Medical Records Consent form, please ask reception and they can assist you with this.

GEGAC Dental

GEGAC Dental visits Orbest Regional Health every second Tuesday. To book an appointment, please call GEGAC on 5150 0700

Medical Transport

We know how important it is to get to your medical appointments, and our transport service is here to help. Lately, transport has been in high demand, and while we try our best, we're not always able to cover every request. To make sure we can support as many people as possible, please keep in mind:

- For medical appointments only: our transport service is just for health-related appointments.
- Local transports (Orbest): Please give us at least **24 hours'** notice. We understand some appointments pop up last minute, but letting us know as early as possible helps us find a driver for you.
- Out of town transports: We kindly ask for **7 days'** notice, so we have time to organise everything properly and ensure we have a driver available.
- Bookings: all transport requests must be made through reception.
- Cancellations: If you no longer need your transport, please let us know as soon as you can. This allows us to offer the spot to someone else who may be waiting.

Thank you for working with us to keep this service running smoothly for everyone in the community.

Riviera Counselling Service

Jeff Steedman from Riviera Counselling is onsite every Wednesday. An appointment with Jeff can be help onsite at Moogji, via phone or a home visit. For an appointment, please call reception.

AOD Services

Our AOD team are on-site at Moogji from Monday to Friday. Drop in for a cuppa and a chat anytime, our door is always open and open to everyone.. We can also come to clients homes. If you are wanting an appointment, please call reception and ask for Margie or Courtney.



Optometrist

Next visit to Moogji: 5th of May

PLEASE ENSURE PAYMENT IS MADE ON THE DAY

Call Moogji reception to book.

Hearing

Next visit to Moogji: 9th of April

Call Moogji reception to book.



Hello we are

Marni & Hattie

Health Promotion Officers

Cancer Program

About the Role



We are a new health promotion team working alongside our community to reduce cancer risk and support early detection.

We aim to share practical health information, run education sessions, and raise awareness about regular screening, including breast, cervical, bowel, prostate, skin, and lung cancers.

We are working towards creating clear pathways to connect the community with healthcare services and empower everyone with the knowledge to care for their health and wellbeing.

We are committed to walking together for a stronger, healthier community.



Limited spots available:
Call SEWB Team: 0499 856 861

Easter Family Fun Days



Tuesday April 7th	Wednesday April 8th	Thursday April 9th	Friday April 10th
<p>Departing Moogji @ 10am Returning Moogji @ 4.30pm</p> <p>A fun day at Lakes Entrance Aquadrome, running and racing friends on the aqua run!</p>  <p>Don't forget your bathers, towel, & spare pair of clothes Transport Available</p>	 <p>Come join us @ The Block, 291 Bonang Road, Orbost for a fun day full of activities from emu egg carving, basket weaving, woodburning, arts & crafts and Easter Egg hunt, plus Wacky Wombat</p> <p>11am - 2pm</p> <p>Transport Available</p>	<p>Departing Moogji @ 9am Returning Moogji @ 3.30pm</p> <p>Royal Cave is known for its glassy calcite-rimmed pools and Fairy Cave is laced with intricate stalactites and stalagmites, replete with ornate chambers.</p>  <p>Appropriate footwear to be worn Transport Available</p>	<p>Departing Moogji @ 9am Returning @ 3.30pm</p>   <p>Experience the beauty of Gippsland Lakes from a whole new perspective. Paddle at your own pace, build skills and enjoy a memorable day on the lakes.</p>

Limited spots available:
Call SEWB Team: 0499 856 861

Easter Melbourne Trip - Age: 12 - 17



Tuesday April 14th	Wednesday April 15th	Thursday April 16th	Friday April 17th
<p>Depart Orbost @ 9am</p>  <p>Traralgon - Melbourne Metro Train</p>  <p>Arrive at Accommodation Chill Time!</p>  <p>Brace yourself for decades worth of bone-strumming tales of unexplained sights, sounds and encounters after dark at the Old Melbourne Gaol.</p> 	<p>Explore the wonders of Melbourne Zoos</p>  <p>ArtVo is a new immersive art gallery or trick art gallery - the first of its kind in Australia.</p>  <p>(This may change due to ARTVO renovating their premises)</p>	<p>Birrarung Wilam River Walk</p>  <p>Koorie Heritage Trust Inc "Gookan Danna Murra Koor-ai"</p> <p>Aboriginal Advance League Tour</p>  <p>Melbourne Museum</p>  <p>Luna Park</p> 	<p>Queen Vic Market</p>  <p>Melbourne Central</p>  <p>Depart Melbourne @ 3.01pm</p> <p>Arrive Traralgon @ 5.30pm 5.30pm - 7.30 Dinner @ La Porchetta, Depart Traralgon @ 7.30pm Arrive @ Orbost 9.30pm</p>  



Community are invited to join us

- 8th April 2026
- 11AM - 2PM
- RSVP: 5154 2133
- The Block
291 Bonang Rd, Orbst

HOPPY EASTER party

- Flat Bickie Food Truck
- Wacky Wombat
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Face Painting
- Egg Carving
- Basket weaving
- Woodburning
- Art Deco
- Guilt Free Gourmet Food Truck
- Door Prizes



KEEP A LOOK OUT FOR EASTER BUNNY, HE MAY BE HIDING BEHIND A TREE!

TRANSPORT FROM MOOGJI AVAILABLE, PLEASE CALL 5154 2133 TO RESERVE SPOT

UPCOMING *Elders Care Support* YARNING CIRCLES



11 FEB	ELDERS MORNING TEA Moogji Stanley street, Board room Guest: Louise CEO 10AM - 11:30AM
11 MAR	ELDERS MORNING TEA Moogji - Stanley street Mosaic art 10-11:30AM
15 APR	ELDERS MORNING TEA Moogji - Stanley Street Guest: LCH guest speaker finish mosaic 10-11:30AM
13 MAY	ELDERS MORNING TEA Moogji Stanley street Guest: HOUSING 10-11:30AM
10 JUN	ELDERS MORNING TEA Moogji Stanley street Health talk with Moogji staff 10-11:30AM

Elder Care Support
Community-led
Pathways to Care



APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 Happy Easter	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 FAMILY FUN DAY	7 MOVE IT WEDNESDAY! Jeff - Counsellor	8 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	9 Good Friday OFFICE CLOSED	10 FAMILY FUN DAY
11 Youth Easter Melb Trip 14th-17th	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 FAMILY FUN DAY	14 Dr Thamaral 15 MOVE IT WEDNESDAY! Jeff - Counsellor	15 FAMILY FUN DAY Hearing Australia	16 Dr Thamaral 17	18
19	20 SCHOOL RETURNS	21 Shona - Nurse Practitioner	22 Dr Thamaral 23 MOVE IT WEDNESDAY! Jeff - Counsellor	24 Shona - Nurse Practitioner	25 Dr Thamaral 26	25 ANZAC DAY
26	27	28 Shona - Nurse Practitioner	29 MOVE IT WEDNESDAY! Jeff - Counsellor	30 Shona - Nurse Practitioner		



2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Optometrist	Cultural day year 7-12 Jeff - Counsellor			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>Mother's Days</i>			MOVE IT WEDNESDAY! Jeff - Counsellor			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			MOVE IT WEDNESDAY! Jeff - Counsellor			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	National Sorry Day	National	MOVE IT WEDNESDAY! Jeff - Counsellor	National Reconciliation Week 27th May - 3rd June		
31						