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May 2025 Community Newsletter

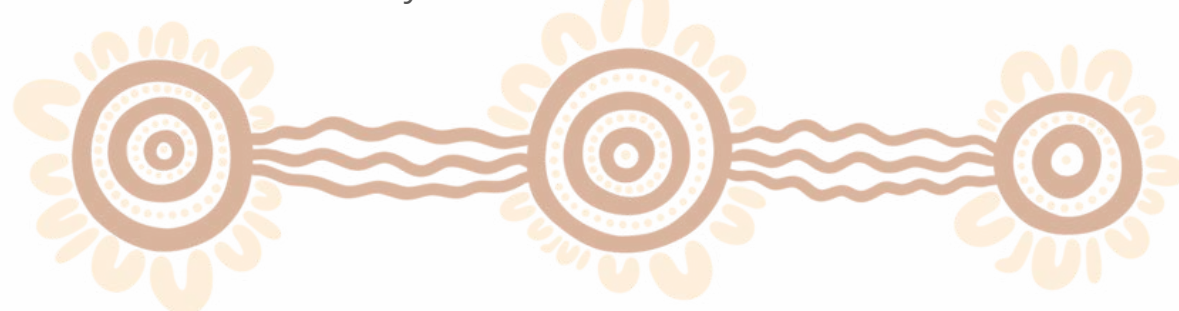
Board Report

Before I begin the Chairperson's update, I'd like to acknowledge the Sorry Business that many of our families have been experiencing, there are a lot of families doing it tough. I'm pleased that Moogji is reviewing our Social and Emotional Wellbeing programs to see if there is more we can be doing to help our community.

The board have been reviewing the reporting processes to ensure we can make sound decisions. We have reviewed the format of the financial reporting, are in the process of reviewing the Confirmation of Aboriginality process and will start reviewing the process for reporting to the Board on the key committees such as Occupational Health and Safety, Quality, Compliance and Risk, as well as Clinical Governance.

Keep an eye out over the next couple of months for more Community Information sessions on Board roles and responsibilities' and how to become a Board Member. It's really important that we get a diverse range of our Community on the Board, and if you are worried about your lack of experience, there are many opportunities to do training to build your knowledge of what it takes to be a Board Member.

I'd like to congratulate the organisation on the highly successful recent event connecting children to their culture. Watching the youth (and their families) learn the craft of emu egg carving thanks to Uncle Ringo's great coaching, and the beautiful basket weaving being taught by Aunty Susan and Kylie was great. It was also a wonderful surprise for the kids to have the Easter Bunny arrive as well.





We are all looking forward to the NAIDOC movie night! Fingers crossed the weather will be kind to us because to have it outside at Bonang with the fires will be a great experience. We do have an alternative location if there is rain forecast. Please remember to bring your chairs and blankets.

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (NACCHO) held a Special General Meeting on 7th and 8th of May. NACCHO is the national peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations such as Moogji. The meeting was to change their Constitution (Rules) to be more reflective of the current environment they operate in. I attended to ensure the Moogji vote was counted and the constitution was endorsed.

Please don't forget there is an open invitation for Community to drop in and see Louise on Thursday afternoons. Louise is looking forward to meeting everyone and it's a great opportunity for a yarn and cuppa with the CEO.

Megan Solomon
Chairperson

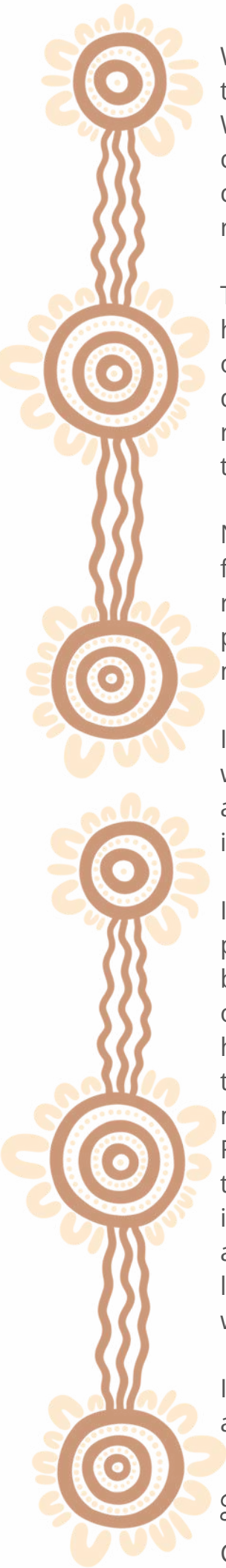
CEO Report

Like Megan, I would also like to acknowledge the Sorry Business the Community has been dealing with. Our thoughts go out to everyone. I'd also like to acknowledge the support everyone provides to each other in tough times. It's a privilege to work here and whatever supports we can offer, we always will.

I'm very happy to be reporting as the 'CEO' rather than the 'Interim CEO'. Each and every staff member has been incredibly supportive of my decision to stay and continue to help me with my knowledge gaps on Community issues. I can't thank them enough for their support and assistance.

I am inviting community to come and join me for a cuppa so people can get to know me. You can join me at Stanley Street, but I can come to you as well if that is easier. If you are free on a Thursday afternoon, just pop in. If you would prefer another time, just let me know and I will make myself available.

Last month (again) has seen both lows and highs for the community. Now that I am here permanently (rather than simply caretaking), I am reviewing our Social and Emotional Wellbeing programs to see what more we can be doing to support the Community. We have been successful in some of the many grant submissions we have been writing. Whilst the contracts haven't officially come through, we know we will be expanding our youth team after the 1st July which is exciting.



We are going to turn the far end of Stanley Street (where the CEO office and the food pantry are) into a casual area where we can have a drop-in center. We will use the space for youth and parents' groups (at different times of course). There will be a homework center and computers set up for community to use when they need them. Some of the grant funding was to refurbish the area so we are looking forward to that.

The food pantry will be moved to where the old reception used to be. We have also secured funds to extend the driveway and the parking at the front of the building. Now that we have the Doctor or the Nurse Practitioner on duty regularly, Stanley Street is choked with parked cars so that will free the road up a bit. The flag and the stone will remain, also the flax plants along the front of the building.

Next month we will be workshopping the new operational plan for next financial year to ensure we are meeting the goals in the Strategic plan. We report our progress at each Board meeting, and we will be reporting out progress to the community through the Annual Report when we hold our next AGM.

I was sorry to have missed the Fishing event at Marlo (I was moving that weekend) but the Easter Event was wonderful. The weather was kind to us and to get the great feedback about the kids (and their families) being so involved in the emu egg carving and basket weaving was wonderful.

I would like to acknowledge Christine Milliken's 30 years of tireless and passionate work dedicated to her community. When I was first asked by my boss, Aunty Jill Gallagher to act as the Interim CEO, the first words that came out were 'is Aunty Christine still there', when Jill said yes, it was wonderful. I have known Christine through my visits to Orbost for over 20 years so I was thrilled that there would be a friendly face who had deep experience to help me settle in. We have farewelled (with mixed emotions) Christine as she and Ron take off on a well-earned holiday. There's more on that further along in this newsletter, but I would like to personally thank Christine for her incredible support. The Interim CEO role was very rewarding, but it was also a big job and Christine went over and above to make sure I had every need looked after. It's quite possible I have added a few inches to my waistline as well!!

I can't wait for NAIDOC week and I'm looking forward to seeing you all again at the upcoming events.

Louise Carey
CEO

Celebration of Christine Millikens

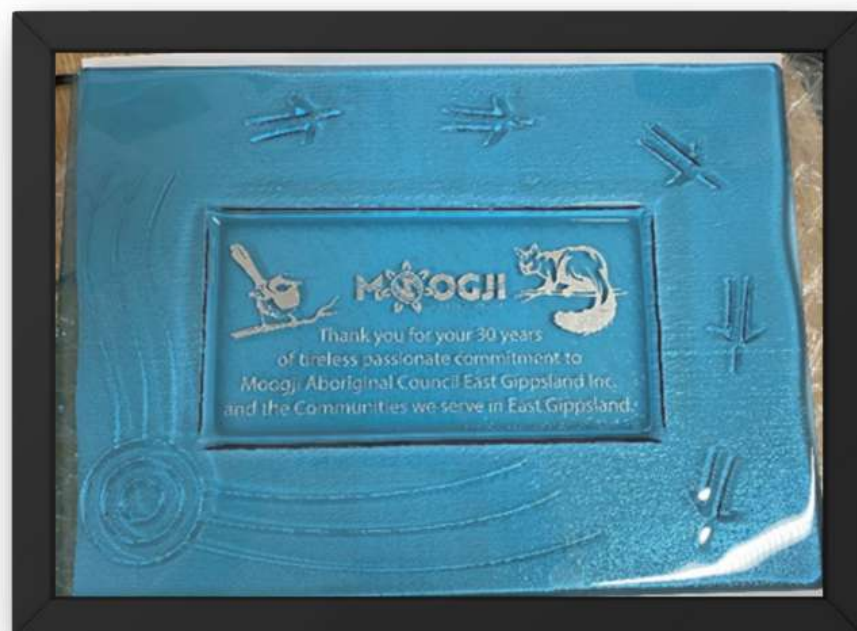
30 years of service at Moogji

After 30 years of passionate and dedicated service, Christine was recognised by the Board and staff for her dedication, passion and commitment to the Community Moogji serves. Christine has been instrumental in mentoring and coaching young, up and coming staff, and some of the older ones too. As the Office Manager, Christine made sure that the organisation was running smoothly and that everyone was looked after. Since I started at Moogji in September last year, Christine has been a huge support for me in so many different ways and i am missing her dearly already.

We had a gift commissioned especially for this significant service award which we hope does service to the value Christine added.

It was with both joy and sadness that we farewell Christine on 30th May as she heads off on long service leave to travel with Ron. We are excited for Christine to have a well deserved break, but we are also very sad that we won't see her smiling face and benefit from her advice and counsel on a daily basis. We said 'see you later' rather than 'goodbye' as we hope to be able to lure Christine back to Moogji again in the future. Whilst the afternoon tea was a small affair to wish her well on her travels, we will celebrate Christine's retirement with her when she's back in Orbost.

Louise Carey



NURSE PRACTITIONER

We currently have Shona, our female Nurse Practitioner onsite Tuesdays and Thursdays at Moogji.

what can a Nurse Practitioner do?

- Order Imaging requests (X-ray, Ultrasound etc) and act on results
- Order Pathology and act on results
- Prescribe medications
- Manage chronic conditions e.g. Diabetes and high blood pressure
- Womens' Health
- Perform procedures such as suturing, vaccinations, mole removal, etc.
- Order and perform tests such as Cervical screens, prostate exams, etc.



HAVE YOU MET THE CEO YET?

Would you like to learn a bit more about Louise, hear what's happening at Moogji, the plans for the future and the improvements we are working on?

Louise will be hosting afternoon teas every Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm so people can drop in and have a yarn.

If you can't make a Thursday afternoon, but have some burning questions, just give her a call on 0497 943 700 and Louise will work out a time that suits you best.



Moogji Clinic Update

Welcome Linda, Our New Practice Manager!

We're excited to welcome Linda to the Moogji team as our new Practice Manager. Linda brings a wealth of experience in healthcare management and a strong commitment to supporting community wellbeing. With a background in both clinical and administrative leadership, she's passionate about creating a positive and efficient environment for both staff and clients.

Linda is already settling in and looking forward to getting to know everyone. Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself when you see her around!

Aboriginal Health Worker Update



Our Aboriginal Health Worker trainee, Luana has just received her Certificate in Otoscopy and Tympanometry through Ear Train at TAFE NSW.

This qualification allows Luana to conduct visual examinations of the ear canal to help identify a range of conditions, including infections, eardrum abnormalities, or impacted wax. She is also now able to perform tympanometry—a test that measures how the eardrum responds to changes in air pressure, helping assess middle ear health.

Since 2023, Luana has been attending the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) in Melbourne for one week each month, where she's been receiving hands-on and theory-based training in a culturally safe environment. Her dedication and eagerness to learn have been clear throughout her journey, and she is progressing exceptionally well.

If you'd like to have your ears checked at Moogji Aboriginal Council, please call reception to book an appointment with Luana!

COMMUNITY EASTER 2025

Moogji held its Community Easter event on Saturday 12th April at 'The Block'. It was fantastic to see so many Community members attend and enjoy the warm Autumn Day.

There was a lot of fun to be had with jumping castles, rabbits, face painting and tattoos.

A huge thank you to Auntie Susan and Kylie Martin for teaching the children basket weaving and Uncle Ringo Morgan for Emu egg carving, which is always a big hit with everyone of all ages.

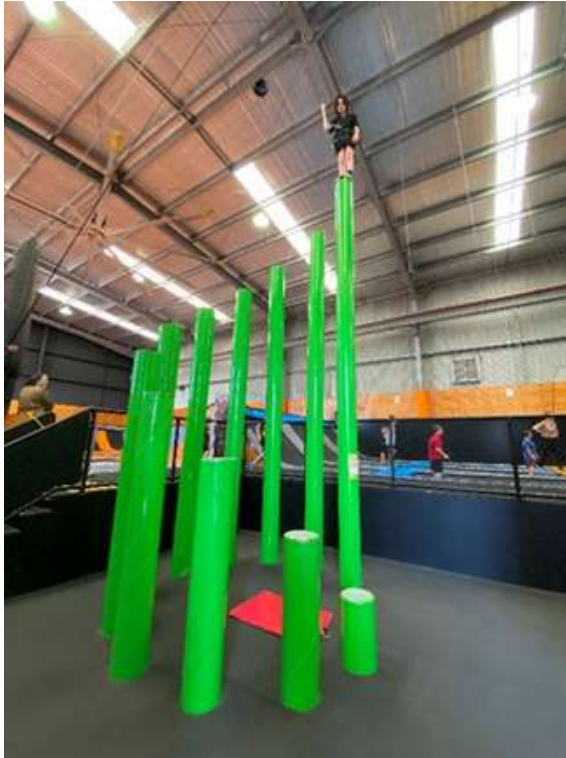
The day was finished off with a special visit from the Easter Bunny, who gave all the children a special gift.



APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Jump & Climb

Wednesday 9th April - We took 14 young people to Jump and Climb in Traralgon. Everyone had an absolute blast tackling the climbing walls and jumping into action!



Tuesday 17th April - We partnered with GippsYouth to run a Boat License Course for young people aged 12-25. We had 11 participants, and we're proud to say every single one passed - congratulations!



APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



Thursday 17th April - We held a Movie Day in Bairnsdale and had an incredible turnout with 44 youth and their parents/guardians joining us. We watched the new Minecraft movie, which was a big hit with all the kids!



A huge thank you to everyone who participated and supported these events - we can't wait for the next round of activities



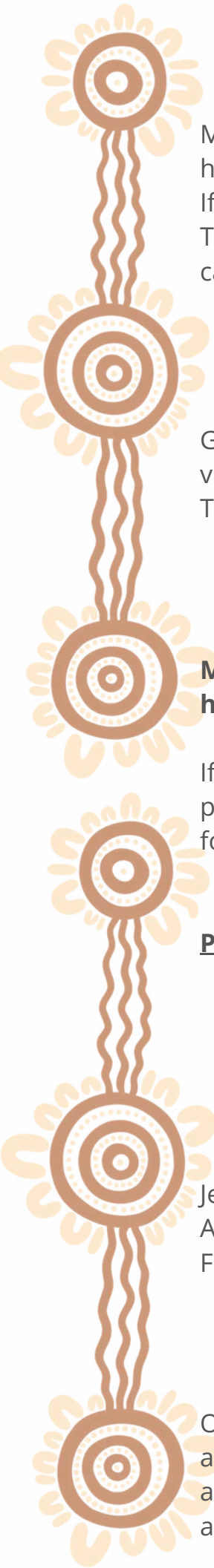
Deer Control Trip

Sam Carey, Moogji's Fauna Division team leader up at the block, undertook deer control operations on the lower Snowy between the 24th and the 28th of March alongside contractor Kirk Stone of Strathbogie Wildlife for round 1 of 2. Utilising thermal technology and by the way of inflatable raft and minimal camping gear, set off from Sandy Point campground for a 20km journey down the Snowy River. Sam manned the gun and was able to showcase his shooting ability as Kirk Stone provided potting for the journey. The operation was a major success, with 30 deer being humanely destroyed. Moogji is very keen to continue undertaking more Deer control contracts in the future, potentially teaming up again with Strathbogie Wildlife. Round 2 commences mid May with hopes of achieving similar results.



NOTICE

Moogji's Bonang property have a small supply of firewood that is being donated to those in need this winter. If you or someone you know in the Aboriginal community could benefit from this please leave your details with the Medical Clinic reception and someone from the block will be in touch with you. Keeping in mind the supply is only small so please be mindful, 1 load per household.



Doctor Sessions

Moogji has a doctor onsite every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 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 your Transfer of Medical Records Consent form, please ask reception and they can assist you with this.

GEGAC Dental

GEGAC Dental visit Orbest Regional Health every second Tuesday. The next visit is Tuesday 13th May.

To book an appointment with GEGAC call them on 5150 0700

Medical Transport

Moogji can help clients get to and from medical appointments, if we have a driver available.

If you require travel assistance for an out-of-town medical appointment, please give Moogji Reception a call. Please be aware that Moogji requires the following:

- Appointment time confirmation
- At least a weeks notice to organise a driver where possible

Please note:

- We require at least 24 hours notice for cancellations of medical transports
- If you do not give enough notice (unless outside of your control), you may be declined transport in the future

Riviera Counselling Service

Jeff Steedman from Riviera Counselling is onsite every Wednesday. Appointments can be made to see Jeff onsite, home visits or over the phone. For appointments call reception.

AOD Services

Our AOD team are on-site at Moogji 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 call reception and ask for Margie or Courtney.

Optometrist

Next visit to Moogji: TBC

PLEASE ENSURE PAYMENT IS MADE ON THE DAY

Call Moogji Reception to book.

Hearing

Next visit to Moogji: 4th September

Call Moogji Reception to book.



Call Moogji Clinic on 5154 2133 to book

Ends 30th June 2025



**Complete your annual
Aboriginal Health Check – 715
for your chance to win!!!**

Weber Q

Nintendo Switch

NINJA Woodfire Oven and Stand

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT
TO US!**

*Have a complaint, compliment or
feedback?*

Scan the QR code and give us your
feedback





Bec from Aboriginal Housing Victoria will be visiting Moogji every 3rd Monday of the month.

What can Bec do?

Assist with Aboriginal Housing matters for current AHV renters including;

- Rent charges and payment enquiries - including CPAY deductions
- Rental arrears
- Transfer application requests VHR priority forms to be submitted - this is limited but can help start the process
- Provide subsidy forms for Rent Review to update or add household members and information on current tenancy agreements
- Forms of Authority - to assist with making enquiries and support on tenancy and property related matters
- Maintenance enquiries
- Complaints
- Feedback
- Limited information on checking with AHV's allocations officer if listed on AHV's waiting list
- Provide contact details for VHR and other housing providers and support
- Tenancy transfers - submit transfer request forms for manager of housing approval
- Complaints lodgement assistance - need to be in writing so they can be submitted to complaint department
- General Advice - happy to chat about what we could do to assist

Bec does not have access to VHR or Housing Organisation Providers list. Bec cannot provide or obtain addresses or information to anyone not listed on a tenancy with AHV or does not have a Form of Authority.

Upcoming Visits

19th May
16th June
21st July
18th August
15th September
20th October
17th November
15th December

Call Moogji reception to book in with Bec.

Join our Climate Risk Workshop

Help plan for our future.
Protect what matters.

Wednesday, May 14
10am - 12pm

Do you have a keen interest in caring for Country?

We're seeking Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff and Community members to a culturally grounded two-hour yarn to explore what climate risk means for our Communities and how we can respond.



The yarn will be facilitated by Caroline Kell on behalf of VACCHO. Caroline is a Mbarbrum woman and the Founder and Managing Director of Blak Wattle Coaching and Consulting.

In this workshop, we'll yarn about:

- What climate risk means for Country, Culture and Aboriginal organisations
- Strengths and strategies and knowledge already in Aboriginal ways of knowing and doing
- Practical steps to create an assessment of climate risk
- The role we can have in shaping climate responses and how this can support funding, business cases and planning

Workshop at Moogji Aboriginal
Council East Gippsland Inc

Free to attend. Catering provided.
RSVP by May 9



VACCHO, in partnership with the Department of Health, Aurecon, and Blak Wattle, is working with six ACCOs to look at climate risk and resilience.

Orbost Early Years Census - Survey for families

The Orbost Early Years Network is working to better coordinate and support local early childhood education and care needs and gaps.

We would love to hear from families in the Orbost district to be able to better support Early Childhood Education & Care and improve access for children and families.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and your feedback is vital to understanding the needs and to create opportunities for the future.



To complete the survey electronically,
please scan the QR code or click on the link -
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PB2NHY>

Paper copies of the survey are available from the Orbost EGSC
Service Centre & Library.

If you have any questions about the survey or if you would rather provide your response by phone, please contact Kayla, Orbost Early Years Education Officer - 0467 831 038



Co-developing a Fire Ecology Research Strategy with Traditional Owners

Overview

Victoria's environment has been profoundly shaped by major bushfires and altered fire regimes, with particularly extreme impacts over the last 20 years. Increasingly frequent, large, homogeneous, high-severity fires have driven declines in biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Addressing these challenges requires a strong, targeted research agenda to provide effective and impactful long-term solutions.

Traditional Owners across Victoria have long used fire to care for country and maintain ecosystem health. Today, this deep knowledge of fire and these traditional practices are more important than ever in healing Country and supporting the resilience of our natural places.

This project will partner with Traditional Owners to develop a Fire Ecology Research Strategy for the Bushfire and Forest Services Group (BFS) within the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). The strategy will guide research investment to support better fire management outcomes for Victoria's ecosystems and biodiversity.

At the core of this work is the principle that Traditional Owner knowledge systems must guide fire management alongside scientific research. The strategy will be co-designed through a collaborative process centred on Traditional Owner leadership, aspirations and perspectives.

Through workshops and discussions with Traditional Owners, DEECA staff, researchers, and stakeholders, the project will explore:

- Key knowledge gaps around fire impacts on Country and ecology.
- Priority areas for future research.
- How research processes can support and benefit from integration of indigenous knowledge with western science and other perspectives.

This will be BFS's first fire ecology research strategy developed with Traditional Owners and community, setting clear direction for future investment and embedding diverse knowledge systems into research priorities.

DEECA recognises the rights, responsibilities, and deep knowledge that Traditional Owners hold and is committed to genuine partnership. Your participation, leadership, and cultural authority are central to this work.

How to get involved

If you are interested in participating in this project and contributing to setting the future agenda for government investment in fire ecology research in Victoria, please contact Laurence Berry, Senior Fire Ecologist via email at Laurence.Berry@deeca.vic.gov.au.

