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June/July 2026 Community Newsletter

Chairperson Report


Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank Ben Rotheram for his leadership and commitment in the Acting Chairperson role and his tenure as a long-term Board Director. His support and guidance for both the Board and Community has been greatly appreciated.

For those who may not know me well, I am a proud Kooma man and have worked for many years in Aboriginal Health and Land Management. I am very proud to support our organisation and Community through strong governance, culturally safe programs and ensuring Community voices remain at the centre of the work we do.

The Board and leadership team have recently been progressing the mid-term review of our Strategic Plan to ensure we continue delivering positive outcomes that reflect Community priorities and future aspirations. As part of this process, the Strategic Plan has been reviewed to ensure it is more fit for purpose for our current operating environment, while also positioning the organisation to better support future funding opportunities and proposals. The updated Strategic Plan can also be found on our website.

We also encourage any Community members interested in Cultural Heritage work to reach out and request an Expression of Interest (EOI) document. Opportunities arise from time to time and we are happy to support people with any required tickets or training pathways where possible.





A very special thank you to our Elders who have generously contributed their knowledge and time to support our Family Wellbeing work, including voluntarily assisting with recruitment processes and participating on the Steering Committee. Your guidance is deeply valued.

We still have 2 vacancies on the Board and I would encourage anyone who might be interested in becoming a Board member to chat with Louise Carey, the CEO.

Finally, with winter approaching, please keep an eye out for upcoming vaccination days to help keep our families and Boorai's safe and healthy throughout the colder months. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support and commitment to Community.

Kevan Harder.
Chairperson

CEO Report

I would like to pay my respects to the Traditional Owners of the land we live, play and work on. I'd like to pay my respects to Elders past and present, to the Elders who had the passion and dedication to establish Moogji, and the Elders who continue to guide us in the work we do today.

I would like to extend a huge congratulations to Luana Carter, who has recently completed her Aboriginal Health Worker Practitioner training. Luana is incredibly passionate about her work, and this qualification is a well-deserved achievement.

Luana plays a vital role in supporting the health and wellbeing of mob by providing culturally safe healthcare, health education, advocacy, and support services that respects cultural values, traditions, and practices. The training takes two years to complete and Luana has successfully mastered it all.

I would also like to congratulate Levi Martin and Ali Wilkinson on recently completing their Diploma in Leadership and Management.

All three staff members have balanced family life, work commitments, and study to successfully achieve their qualifications — an outstanding accomplishment to be celebrated.

The filming of Elders talking to the cultural trail at Bonang Road took place in May. We were surely blessed to have the most perfect weather conditions for the three days. The filmmakers captured the Elders stories of the trail so we can digitally preserve these for future generations. While they were out here – we also got them to film other areas of work at Bonang Road to preserve that part of Moogji's history and use for funding submissions. Big shout out to the Moogji team coordinating all the work. As soon as the clips are available to view, we will let you know.

We have had some great community events over the past few months and I'm particularly looking forward to the 'fire and yarn' night on Wednesday 3rd June. I hope to see you all there. Stay warm everyone!

Louise Carey

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 over 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. 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.

*Flu Vaccine available at Moogji.
Call reception for an appointment*

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: TBC

PLEASE ENSURE PAYMENT IS MADE ON THE DAY

Call Moogji reception to book.

Hearing

Next visit to Moogji: TBC

Call Moogji reception to book.

Moogji's Men's Health Fishing & BBQ

Ages 45-74

BBQ Lunch

Spot prizes
Fishing gear provided and
take home tackle kits to
keep.

Bowel Screening

Come enjoy a fish, feed
and learn about bowel
screening and why it
matters.

Date

Thursday June 11
2026

Time

11:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

Location:

Marlo Boat
Shed

Transport is available:

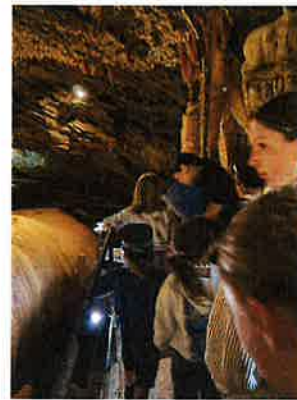
Book in with
reception

RSVP to Reception

5154 2133



APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN WEEK



April School Holiday Program Highlights

7 APRIL – LAKES ENTRANCE INDOOR POOL

Participants enjoyed a relaxing and fun-filled afternoon at the Lakes Entrance Indoor Pool. The day included swimming, floating, and spending quality time together in a calm and supportive environment. The outing encouraged social interaction, confidence in the water, and positive wellbeing through recreation and relaxation. To finish off the day, the group stopped by McDonald's for an ice cream treat, which was a perfect way to end the outing.

9 APRIL – BUCHAN CAVES RESERVE EXCURSION

Our trip to Buchan Caves Reserve provided families and participants with an engaging outdoor experience that supported learning, wellbeing, and connection to the natural environment. The excursion gave young people the opportunity to explore somewhere new outside of their everyday environment, helping to build confidence, strengthen peer relationships, and encourage curiosity and teamwork.

Throughout the visit, participants learned about the land, waterways, and natural formations of the area, with discussions focused on respecting the environment and the importance of caring for Country for future generations. The experience created meaningful opportunities to connect with nature while appreciating the cultural and environmental significance of the area.

Participants showed increased confidence while exploring the caves, including navigating some of the tighter spaces. The day also supported physical activity through walking trails, playground time, and sports activities organised by Moogji staff. Stronger relationships were formed between participants and staff, communication skills improved, and everyone demonstrated respect and cooperation within shared spaces.



APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN WEEK



10 APRIL – VENTURE OUT GIPPSLAND LAKES ADVENTURE

Our final day activity was a memorable and exciting excursion with Venture Out kayaking along the Gippsland Lakes to Eastern Beach. The day was designed to provide participants with a fun outdoor experience that encouraged teamwork, confidence-building, and enjoyment of the natural environment.

The water-based activity gently challenged comfort zones while fostering resilience, achievement, and social connection. Structured games and free-play activities allowed participants to strengthen friendships, support one another, and reflect on their shared journey throughout the program.

Spending time on the Gippsland Lakes also encouraged participants to engage with and respect the local waterways and natural surroundings. Discussions highlighted the importance of caring for Country and recognising the cultural significance of water and land for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Throughout the day, participants demonstrated:

- Increased confidence, especially among those initially hesitant about water-based activities
- Strong teamwork and positive social connections
- A willingness to try new experiences and step outside their comfort zones
- Improved wellbeing through active outdoor play and physical activity

The atmosphere was filled with laughter, encouragement, and positive group spirit. Activities such as races, splashing games, and ball tiggy kept everyone engaged and ensured inclusive participation. The BBQ lunch and playground time added a relaxed social element that everyone enjoyed.

OVERALL FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS WAS OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE, WITH MANY DESCRIBING THE EXCURSION AS FUN, MEMORABLE, AND A HIGHLIGHT OF THE PROGRAM.



APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY EASTER COMMUNITY FUN DAY



Moogji's Easter Community Fun Day was a vibrant and successful event that brought together families, young people, and community members in a safe, inclusive, and culturally engaging environment. The day was filled with fun, creativity, and meaningful cultural experiences, creating an opportunity for the community to connect, learn, and celebrate together.

A key highlight of the event was the strong focus on cultural engagement. Activities such as basket weaving, wood burning, and the Cultural Trail scavenger hunt gave participants the opportunity to connect with culture in a hands-on and interactive way. These activities encouraged storytelling, learning, and the sharing of knowledge, helping to strengthen cultural identity and awareness within the community.

The day also featured a colouring-in competition and exciting door prizes, which added to the fun and encouraged participation from children and families throughout the event. These activities created excitement and helped make the day enjoyable for attendees of all ages.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Families appreciated the wide variety of activities available and praised the relaxed and friendly atmosphere throughout the day. The entertainment and food options were also well received and contributed to the overall enjoyment of the event.



Moogji would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to making the Easter Community Fun Day such a memorable and successful community celebration. A big shout to Easter Bunny for attending our event!

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY MELBOURNE CAMP

Melbourne Youth Camp Success

Moogji recently delivered a successful youth camp in Melbourne, providing young people with a safe, supportive, and engaging environment to build social connections, strengthen independence, and participate in meaningful cultural learning experiences.

The camp formed part of Moogji's ongoing commitment to youth engagement and development, creating opportunities for participants to step outside their everyday routines, explore new places, and take part in structured activities that encouraged personal growth, confidence, and connection.

Throughout the camp, participants enjoyed a balanced program combining educational, cultural, and recreational activities. Engagement with organisations such as the Aborigines Advancement League and the Koorie Heritage Trust provided valuable opportunities for participants to learn within culturally informed environments, deepening their understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal perspectives while strengthening their own sense of identity and belonging.

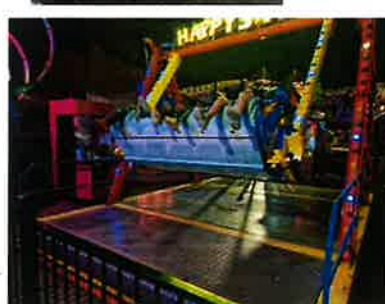
The camp also included a range of fun and interactive experiences that encouraged teamwork, confidence, and social connection. Participants enjoyed exciting outings to Luna Park, St Kilda, where they experienced rides and recreational activities together, as well as a visit to Melbourne Zoo, which provided opportunities to learn about wildlife and conservation. Another highlight of the trip was the Old Melbourne Gaol Ghost Tour, where participants explored local history through an engaging and memorable interactive experience.

The camp delivered several positive outcomes for participants, including:

- Increased confidence and independence
- Stronger peer relationships and new friendships
- Improved teamwork, communication, and social skills
- Enhanced cultural awareness and understanding
- Positive participation in both structured and recreational activities

Participants consistently demonstrated enthusiasm, respect, and a willingness to support one another throughout the program. Staff and volunteers worked collaboratively to ensure the camp was inclusive, safe, and enjoyable for everyone involved.

Moogji is proud to continue creating opportunities that empower young people, strengthen cultural connections, and foster positive community engagement.



A Big shout out to Cortney for volunteering your time to attend our camp at such short notice, without your help this camp would not have gone ahead

LEGEND!

3RD CULTURAL PROGRAM

Moogji's 3rd Cultural Program recently brought together students from Orbost Community College and Lakes Secondary College for a meaningful day of cultural learning, connection, and community engagement.

The program created opportunities for students and community members to connect with Elders and cultural knowledge holders through hands-on activities, storytelling, art, food, and cultural practices.

The Cultural Trail provided an interactive learning journey where participants explored stories, traditional knowledge, and connection to Country. Aunty Aileen led students on a Cultural Trail walk and talk, sharing stories and cultural knowledge connected to the local area. Misty delivered a Nursery Talk focused on plants, bush tucker, and caring for Country.

Students also enjoyed cooking activities with Rosie, Uncle Buzzy, and Teresa, making damper and kangaroo skewers while learning about traditional foods and cooking practices. Creative activities included gem tree making, clap stick making, and boomerang decorating, giving students the opportunity to express creativity while learning cultural skills.

Throughout the day, students engaged directly with Elders and community members through yarning, storytelling, and practical cultural experiences. Representatives from Victoria Police, Wellways, GLaWAC, East Gippsland Shire Youth Engagement Workers, and the Koorie Justice Worker also attended to support the event.

The program delivered many positive outcomes, including increased cultural engagement, stronger connections between young people and Elders, and greater understanding of Aboriginal culture and traditions. Students built confidence through teamwork and hands-on learning while forming positive relationships across schools and the wider community.

The day was also filmed by Pretty Delicious to help preserve and document the cultural knowledge shared throughout the event for future generations.





NAIDOC FLAG RAISING

50 YEARS OF DEADLY


PLEASE JOIN MOOGJI FOR OUR 2026
FLAG RAISING CEREMONY,
FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA

MONDAY JULY 6TH
29| BONANG ROAD
10:30AM-12PM

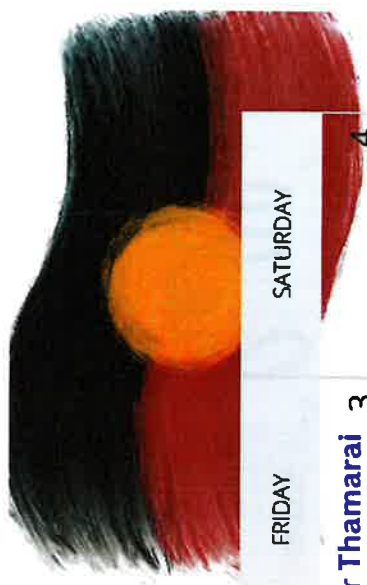
To RSVP or more information, please
call reception on 51542133

2026 June



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Dr Thamarai 1	2	Dr Thamarai 3 Mabo Day Fire & Yarn night Jeff - Counsellor	-4	Dr Thamarai 5	6
7	8 	9	Dr Chen 10 Jeff - Counsellor	11	Dr Chen 12	13
14	Dr Chen 15 OFFICE CLOSED	16	Dr Chen 17 Jeff - Counsellor	18	Dr Chen 19	20
21	22	23	Dr Sanjika - TH Jeff - Counsellor	25	26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	27
WATCH THIS SPACE Updates on school holiday activities to come	Dr Thamarai 29	30				





	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Dr Thamarai 1 Coming of the Light Jeff - Counsellor	2	Dr Thamarai 3	4
NAIDOC WEEK 5TH-12TH	5 Dr Thamarai 6 FLAG RAISING	7 Dr Thamarai 8 Jeff - Counsellor	8 Dr Thamarai 9 Jeff - Counsellor	9 Dr Thamarai 10 NAIDOC FAMILY FUN NIGHT	10 Dr Thamarai 11	11
	12 Dr Thamarai 13 SCHOOL RETURNS	14 Dr Thamarai 15 Jeff - Counsellor	15 Dr Thamarai 16 Jeff - Counsellor	16 Dr Thamarai 17	17 Dr Thamarai 18	18
	19	20 Dr Thamarai 21	22 Dr Sanjika - TH Jeff - Counsellor	23	24	25
	26 Dr Thamarai 27	28 Dr Thamarai 29 Jeff - Counsellor	29 Dr Thamarai 30 Jeff - Counsellor	30 Dr Thamarai 31	31	

