

Address: 52-54 Stanley St, Orbost | 291 Bonang Rd Orbost
Phone: 5154 2133 | **Email:** reception@moogji.com.au | **Website:** www.moogjiaboriginalcouncil.org.au

Community Newsletter

November / December 2026

Chairperson's Report

Hello everyone,
As we approach the end of another busy year, I would like to share a few updates and acknowledge the wonderful support Moogji continues to receive from our Community.

Victorian State Election – 28 November 2026
The Victorian State Election will be held on Saturday 28 November 2026, and I encourage everyone who is eligible to make sure they are enrolled and take the opportunity to vote.
Voting gives us an opportunity to have our say on the issues that matter to our families, our Community and future generations. Decisions made by government affect many aspects of our lives, including health, housing, education, employment and the services available to Aboriginal people.
I encourage everyone to take the time to understand what the different candidates and parties are offering and make an informed decision. Our voices matter, and participating in the democratic process is one way we can make sure they are heard.

Improvements to Our Stanley Street Building
Members may notice some building works happening at our Stanley Street premises in the coming months. Unfortunately, the roof has reached the point where it is no longer waterproof, and a full replacement is now necessary.
While this is a significant undertaking, it is an important investment in maintaining our buildings and ensuring they remain safe, comfortable and fit for purpose for our staff and Community.
We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding while these essential improvements are carried out.

Thank You to Our Community
I would also like to sincerely thank everyone who has participated in and supported Moogji's many events and activities throughout the year.
Whether you have attended a community gathering, cultural celebration, information session or one of our other activities, your involvement is what makes these events so special and successful.
It is always wonderful to see our Community coming together, sharing stories, celebrating culture and strengthening the connections that make our mob strong. Your continued participation and support mean a great deal to the Board and staff at Moogji.

Christmas Wishes
Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish all our members, families, staff and Community a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy New Year.
Christmas can be a busy time, so please take care of yourselves, look out for one another and enjoy some well-deserved time with family and friends.
Thank you for your ongoing support of Moogji throughout 2026. I look forward to another positive year ahead as we continue working together for the benefit of our Community.

Kevan Horder
Chairperson

CEO's Report

As we approach the end of another busy and productive year at Moogji, I would like to reflect on some of our achievements, share some exciting developments and thank our Community for their ongoing support and involvement.

One of our recent highlights was receiving an award at the Victorian Landcare 40th Anniversary celebrations, presented by Peter Garrett. This recognition is a wonderful acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of our Environmental Crew and their commitment to Caring for Country. Our team continues to make a significant contribution to protecting and restoring our local environment, and we are incredibly proud to see their efforts recognised at a state level.

Across Moogji, we have a significant number of infrastructure projects underway, all aimed at improving our facilities and ensuring we can continue to deliver high-quality, culturally safe services to Community. Some of these improvements are long overdue, while others will help us grow and respond to emerging Community needs.

One particularly exciting project is the feasibility study exploring the future of the older section of our Stanley Street building. We are working with NJAC to hear Community's dreams and aspirations for what this space could become. We want to create a shared vision for a welcoming, culturally safe place that reflects our identity, values and the needs of future generations. I encourage everyone to participate in the consultation process and help shape this important opportunity. Please see the more detailed information on how you can have your say in this Newsletter.

As we head into summer, emergency preparedness is also a major priority for Moogji. We know only too well the impact that bushfires, extreme heat, severe storms and other emergencies can have on our communities. We are strengthening our organisational and Community preparedness, including planning for bushfires, heatwaves, thunderstorm asthma and other extreme weather events. Our focus is on ensuring our staff, services and Community are as prepared and informed as possible, particularly those who may be more vulnerable during emergencies.

We will continue sharing practical information and resources over the coming months to help families prepare and stay safe. For those of you with hay fever type allergies, Victoria has the highest pollen levels on record this year, so please look after yourselves.

You may also have noticed our beautiful new Moogji branding, featuring the Snowy River Dreaming artwork throughout this newsletter. This artwork reflects our deep connection to Country, culture and the beautiful region we live, work and play on. We are gradually introducing the new branding across our publications and communications, giving Moogji a fresh and consistent identity while celebrating the cultural foundations of our organisation.

Another very positive development is our continued success in securing grant funding. This is allowing us to strengthen existing services, introduce new programs and create additional employment opportunities. We have new positions being advertised and are excited about welcoming new staff who will bring additional skills and capacity to support our Community. Every successful funding application represents another opportunity to respond to local needs and invest in the future of our organisation and Community.

I would also like to sincerely thank everyone who has participated in the many consultations, meetings and Community conversations held over the past few months. We recognise that Community is often asked to provide feedback, and that your time is valuable. Your ideas, experiences and knowledge are incredibly important in helping us make decisions that reflect what matters most to local Aboriginal people.

Community voices must continue to guide the work we do, and we genuinely appreciate your willingness to contribute.

Finally, I would like to thank our dedicated staff, Board, Elders, partners and Community members for their support throughout the year. We have achieved a great deal together, and I look forward to building on this work in 2027.

I wish you and your families a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year. Please look after yourselves and each other.

Louise Carey
CEO

Moogji Celebrates Prestigious Landcare Award!

Recognising over a decade of partnership, Caring for Country and environmental achievements



We were incredibly proud to have been recognised alongside Far East Victoria Landcare with the Indigenous Partnership Award, presented at the Victorian Landcare 40th Anniversary celebrations held at Federation Square in Melbourne on Thursday 15 October 2026.

The prestigious award recognises the outstanding partnership between Moogji and Far East Victoria Landcare, celebrating more than a decade of working together to protect, restore and care for the unique landscapes of Far East Gippsland.

The evening brought together Landcare groups, environmental leaders, community organisations and dignitaries from across Victoria to celebrate 40 years of grassroots environmental action. Special guests included renowned environmentalist and musician Peter Garrett, gardening and sustainability advocate Costa Georgiadis, representatives from Landcare Australia and the Governor of Victoria.

The celebrations also acknowledged the remarkable contributions of Joan Kirner and Heather Mitchell, whose vision and leadership helped establish the Landcare movement in Victoria four decades ago.

Caring for Country – A Partnership Built on Shared Values
For Moogji, this award is particularly meaningful because it recognises the strong connection between Aboriginal cultural knowledge, traditional Caring for Country practices and the principles of Landcare.

The partnership began more than 10 years ago through the Snowy West Landcare Group and has since developed into a strong and enduring regional relationship built on mutual respect, shared knowledge and a commitment to improving the health of Country.

Through this partnership, Moogji's Environmental Crew has contributed to important environmental initiatives, including weed and feral animal management, native vegetation restoration, biodiversity protection, habitat rehabilitation and the propagation and planting of locally sourced native species.

These activities do more than restore landscapes. They create meaningful employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people, strengthen connections to Country and provide opportunities for cultural knowledge to be shared across generations.

Moogji CEO Louise Carey said the award was recognition of what can be achieved when Aboriginal knowledge and community-led environmental action come together.

"Caring for Country has always been central to Aboriginal culture. Our partnership with Landcare demonstrates how traditional knowledge and contemporary environmental management can work together to achieve lasting outcomes. We are enormously proud of our Environmental Crew and the contribution they make every day to protecting and restoring Country."

We were delighted when Josh Puglisi from East Victoria Landcare nominated Moogji for this award.



Celebrating the People Behind the Achievement
This award is a wonderful acknowledgement of the dedication, skills and hard work of Moogji's Environmental Crew, whose commitment to caring for the land is evident in the many projects they deliver across our region.

It also recognises the volunteers, landholders, community groups and partner organisations who have worked alongside Moogji over the years.
We extend our sincere thanks to Far East Victoria Landcare, the Snowy West Landcare Group and the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, particularly Regional Landcare Coordinators Krystel and Bec Hemming, for their ongoing encouragement, collaboration and support.
Congratulations also to the East Gippsland Landcare Network on its award recognition during the celebrations.

Looking to the Future
As Landcare celebrates its 40th anniversary, Moogji looks forward to continuing this important partnership, building on our shared achievements and creating new opportunities for Aboriginal employment, cultural knowledge sharing and environmental restoration.
The anniversary celebrations will also continue locally through Through Birds' Eyes – Celebrating 40 Years of Landcare in Far East Gippsland, featuring renowned bird enthusiast, author and presenter Sean Dooley at community events in Cann River and Orbost.
This award belongs to everyone who has contributed to the partnership over the past decade. It is a celebration of community, collaboration and our shared responsibility to care for Country for future generations.



Congratulations to our Environmental Crew and everyone involved in this outstanding achievement!

CELEBRATE LANDCARE 2026

40 Years Landcare

East Gippsland

PRESENTS:

THROUGH BIRDS EYES



"THE BIRD MAN" SEAN DOOLEY

CANN RIVER:5th Nov 2pm –
(Monaro Centre, free refreshments)

– ORBOST: 6th Nov 5pm
(Golf Club, Dinner $10-15)

Food Art Photography Entertainment & Culture

ALL WELCOME

East Gippsland LANDCARE NETWORK INC.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Far East Victoria Landcare

www.fevi.org.au/contact

Wilderness Coast Artists

VICTORIA State Government

This event is supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant provided by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government's 2025 Drought Support Package. #LookOverTheFarmGate

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR FARMER HEALTH

Our New Branding

There's something special behind the new look of this newsletter!

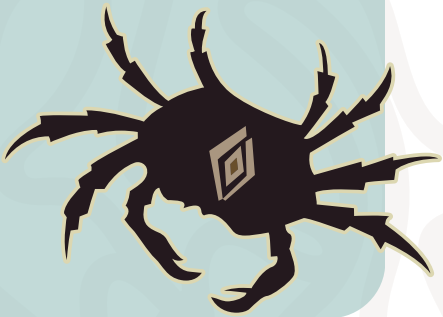
More than 40 years ago, our Elders created the incredible Moogji Snowy River Artwork that continues to be an important part of who we are.

We're really excited to be showcasing this special artwork, and you'll be seeing a lot more of it around the place.

With support from Australian Business Volunteers, we've been working with Libby Henstock to develop new marketing and branding that puts this artwork front and centre.

You may have spotted our crew getting around in the newly branded Moogji vehicles. If you see them out and about, be sure to give them a wave and say hi!









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

Building Better Spaces at Moogji!

We've been busy making some important improvements to our buildings and facilities.



Solar installations are part of the infrastructure improvements at Bonang and Stanley Street. This has included a substantial solar and battery system designed to support the site's energy needs and provide backup capability.

Making safer and smarter spaces for our community, staff and visitors.

We've also been progressing the mould remediation works on the old building at Stanley St. This includes replacing the roof on the old building at Stanley street as it is leaking and causing serious mould issues. This is helping to improve the condition of our facilities and provide safer spaces for our community, staff and visitors. Staff are managing the changes to their workspaces. We expect to have disruption to the food pantry access throughout Nov - Jan. We will let everyone know when this approaches!

These works form part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving Moogji's infrastructure, while looking for practical ways to make our facilities more sustainable and resilient into the future.



Shape the future of the 'old' Stanley Street building.

We have secured funding to explore the community's dreams and aspirations for a self-determined culturally safe building for Stanley St. Once the community has decided on a vision for the building, we will use that to apply for funding to turn the vision into reality.
This is an exciting opportunity to reimagine the space and explore how it could become a culturally safe, welcoming and inclusive place that reflects the dreams, aspirations and needs of our Aboriginal Community.
Moogji has engaged NJAC (an Aboriginal consulting company) to help guide this process and, most importantly, ensure that Community voices are at the heart of every conversation and decision about the building's future.

We want to hear from local mob about what this space could become. What would make you feel welcome, safe and connected to culture? What services, activities or spaces would you like to see? What would make this a place our Elders, families, young people and future generations to use, host events in or just a great space to meet up in

We want everyone to have a say and share ideas!

A short, anonymous survey is available for Community members to share their thoughts openly and honestly, or you can share your ideas with any Moogji staff

Community Survey:

RediMob

The RediMob Pathways Volunteer and Emergency Services Expo was a successful youth event held on Country at Bung Yarnda, Lake Tyers.

The expo was a collaborative community initiative between Moogji, Lake Tyers Trust, the Australian Red Cross, and schools from across East Gippsland. More than 350 students from Years 7 to 12 attended the event, alongside 50 community stallholders representing a broad range of services, organisations, and career pathways.



The expo provided young people with valuable opportunities to connect directly with local services, training providers, emergency services, and employment pathways that would otherwise require travel to larger regional centres or the city. Students were able to explore future career options, engage with community organisations, and gain a greater understanding of the support services available within their region.



The day was considered an outstanding success, with overwhelmingly positive feedback received from students, schools, community members, and stallholders. The strong community response highlighted the importance of creating accessible career and pathway opportunities for young people in East Gippsland, with many participants expressing their support for the event to become a biennial initiative.

Highlight of the day was a fly over from the RAAF Roulette!!!



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event possible. Your support, collaboration, and commitment helped create a fantastic day for our young people and community. We greatly appreciate everyone involved in the success of the RediMob Pathways Volunteer and Emergency Services Expo.

Christmas Closure Dates!!

Tuesday 22nd December 12pm,
reopen Wednesday 6th January, 9am.

Clinic dates to be confirmed pending Doctor availablity.

At this stage the last day for Doctor appointments for 2026 will be 21st December, any updates will be posted on our Facebook page.

Please ensure you book in for any last minute scripts you may need before we close for the Christmas Holidays as there will be no appointments available until after we return on 6th January.

Our Community Christmas Party is in the works, keep an eye on our Facebook page for the date and other details.



Skin Cancer Clinic

Providing our community with accessible skin checks and mole assessments to support early detection, skin health, and peace of mind

APPOINTMENT DATES

7 December 2026

14 December 2026

22 March 2027

Moogji

Book a skin check at Moogji with health professionals from Your Skin Scan.

Moogji Clinic Reception:
5154 2133

Early checks can help identify changes sooner.

Questions? Ask your trusted Aboriginalinal Health Worker, Nurse or Doctor. We are here to help.

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.

Optometrist
Next visit to Moogji: TBC
Please ensure payment is made on the day.
Call Moogji reception to book.

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.

Hearing
Next visit to Moogji: TBC
Call Moogji reception to book

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 (Orbost):** 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.

GEGAC Dental
To book an appointment, please call GEGAC on 5150 0700



Mums & Bubs



Mums & Bubs will be running every second Friday, 10am-12pm (check calendar for dates). We'd love to see you and your little ones come along for a fun filled session. This is a safe place for your little ones to engage, connect and socialise. Mums, dads, grandparents, and/or carers are more than welcome to attend.

Across the sessions we aim to have a range of different activities the little ones can participate in! We'd also love to hear from you what activities you may like to see.



Don't forget, it's also a great opportunity for the adults to sit back, have a cuppa, and try to relax for at least a few minutes!

Medication Deliveries

From 2027 we will be ensuring we have a clinic staff member available and booked for an hour, to complete daily medication deliveries/providing transport to the chemist for our clients. This time will be 2pm-3pm each day. Please make sure you call reception before 2pm if you are needing your medication the same day and we'll be able to assist.

Food Pantry



Our new Food Pantry opening hours are 9am - 3.30pm Monday - Friday

Spring School Holiday Program

The Spring Holiday Program provided a range of engaging activities that brought young people, families, and community members together throughout the school holiday period.

Youth participated in a relaxed Movie Day at Stanley Street, offering an opportunity to connect and socialise in a safe and welcoming environment. An art session was also held at The Block, where participants were joined by Elder Trish Preston, who shared her knowledge and creativity while assisting young people to create artwork on skateboards. The session was further enriched by the attendance of community members from Bung Yarnda, strengthening connections between local groups and encouraging cultural engagement.

Moogji also facilitated two great Family Days for community members. The first brought families together at Forest Park for a yarn and BBQ lunch, providing a relaxed setting for social and community connection. The second was a day trip to Magic Mountain in Merimbula, which was a tremendous success, with 42 Moogji community members attending. The excursion provided families with a fun and memorable experience while strengthening relationships and promoting positive wellbeing outcomes.

Overall, the Spring Holiday Program offered meaningful opportunities for cultural connection, creativity, recreation, and community engagement, with strong participation from youth, families, Elders, and Community members



















Elders trip for Seniors Week

On Wednesday 14th October, we took the Elders to Bairnsdale to enjoy the Swinging Sixteens show as part of Seniors Week. It was a wonderful opportunity for Elders to get out, socialise, enjoy the entertainment and spend quality time together. The Elders had a lovely day out, creating special memories and enjoying the experience.





ELDER CARE SUPPORT PROGRAM

If you are an older Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, you may be eligible for aged care. We can help you access and find culturally safe aged care services

Aged care services can help you stay at home longer and can include support for cleaning, cooking, bathing, social activities, gardening, and transport for shopping and appointments.

If eligible, you can also access ageing support equipment like wheelchairs, shower chairs, and walking aids, as well as specific home safety modifications.

WHAT WE DO:

The Elder Care Support team can provide supports that include:

- Help Accessing the My Age Care portal
- Support older First Nations people to understand the My Aged care services, navigate the assessment process and help with choosing the right service provider
- Support families, friends and carers to understand how to best access My Aged care services
- Advocate for older First Nations people by working with assessors and providers to meet their needs



CONTACT US:

Zoe Martin : 5154 2133

Elder Care Support
Community-led Pathways to Care

Aboriginal Disability Liaison Officer

Moogji is part of the Aboriginal Disability Liaison Officer program. We can support you on you journey to applying for access to the NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme)

HOW WE CAN HELP:

- Support you on your NDIS journey
- Guide you through eligibility checks, medical assessment bookings, and initial application forms.
- Identifying NDIS access pathways and barriers for community that prevents community from utilizing the NDIS
- Identifying services that can support your daily living needs
- Liaising with NDIS and other organisations as an advocate on your behalf
- Provide support to identify your goals and prepare for planning meetings

If you, your child, or someone you care for has a permanent and significant disability. The NDIS may be able to help.

For more information call Zoe Martin on 51 54 2133

NDIS is part of my story

2026 NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	Dr Malick 2	3 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Dr Malick 4 Jeff - Counsellor	5 OFFICE CLOSED POWER OUTAGE	Dr Malick 6 Mum & Bubs group "The Bird Man"	7
8	Dr Malick 9	10	Dr Malick 11 Jeff - Counsellor	12	Dr Malick 13	14
15	Dr Malick 16	17	Dr Malick 18 Jeff - Counsellor	19	Dr Malick 20 VOTING AT BONANG*** Mum & Bubs group Mens Camping Trip	21
22	Dr Malick 23	24	Dr Malick 25 Jeff - Counsellor	26	Dr Malick 27	28
29	Dr Malick 30			***Voting at Bonang 2pm-4pm		

2026 DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Keep an eye out on socials for updates on our Annual Community Christmas Party and January School Holiday activities!!		1	Dr Malick 2 Jeff - Counsellor	3	Dr Malick 4 Mum & Bubs group	5
6	Dr Malick 7 Skin Cancer Clinic	8	Dr Malick 9 Jeff - Counsellor	10	Dr Malick 11	12
13	Dr Malick 14 Skin Cancer Clinic	15	Dr Malick 16 Jeff - Counsellor	17	Dr Malick 18 Mum & Bubs group LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	19
20	Dr Malick 21	Moogji 22 closes 12pm until 6th Jan	23	24	Merry Christmas! 25	26
27	28	29	30	31		