



NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA NEWSLETTER

January 2023

10th Edition

Wominjeka - A word from the General Manager

As we step into the year 2024, the Nairm Marr Djambana Board and Staff extends our warmest wishes to each one of you. Happy New Year! As we embark on this new chapter, we also take a moment to reflect on the challenges and losses we faced in 2023.

In memory of our Chairperson and Elder Board member, Aunty Irene, whose unwavering dedication touched the hearts of many, we acknowledge the void her passing has left within our community. A driving force behind the YES campaign and a strong Board member, Aunty Irene's legacy will forever be engraved in our hearts. In a year shadowed by the departure of numerous elders, we pay our respects to those who have journeyed to the dreamtime. In the spirit of NAIDOC YEAR - FOR OUR ELDERS, we honour their wisdom and contributions.

Despite the sombre notes of the past, we look ahead with optimism. We have been diligently preparing for the upcoming year, with a commitment to bringing more cultural activities on our weekends, ensuring that all members of our community, including those working, can actively participate.

Mark your calendars for the week commencing February 5th, as most of our programs will resume, eagerly awaiting your presence. Our community lunch, a cherished tradition, will kick off on February 8th and continue every Thursday from 12:00pm to 2:00pm throughout the school term. Join us in sharing stories, laughter, and a sense of community.

In the area of progress, Nairm is set to undergo further enhancements while we await funding for our Masterplan. Stay tuned for exciting updates on this front!

A warm welcome is extended to Jenaya who has moved from a work experience placement to our new Youth Engagement Officer, funded under Jumpstart for a dynamic six months. Jenaya will collaborate with the Casey Youth Team to bring engaging and enriching programs to our youth. Additionally, we will soon be advertising for a new Administration staff member because Vanessa is moving to Point Cook. We want to take the opportunity to thank Ness for stepping in when Caz left. More details about our dedicated team further on.

Kirrup playtime is set for another exciting year with dedicated facilitator Aimee and Jaffa continuing on as the Aboriginal co-facilitator. A cherished member of our community, Jaffa will infuse language and culture into the sessions every second week. Starting from February 8th, the little bubups and kirrups aged 0-5 are invited to join us every Thursday from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Parents and carers are encouraged to stay, fostering a supportive environment for our youngest community members to thrive.

As we embark on this new year, let us come together to celebrate our culture, support one another, and build a stronger, more vibrant community.

A special acknowledgment goes out to our incredible group of volunteers, the unsung heroes behind the scenes. Without their unwavering dedication and reliability, Nairm would not be able to thrive and fulfill its mission. These individuals, driven by a deep commitment to our community, contribute their time and skills selflessly. Whether it's organising events, assisting in programs, or providing crucial support, our volunteers embody the true spirit of community engagement. Their efforts, often unseen but profoundly impactful, are the glue that binds Nairm together. To each and every volunteer, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your contributions are the foundation upon which Nairm stands, and we are profoundly thankful for your ongoing support. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more connected community. Thank you for being the heartbeat of Nairm.

Yours in community spirit,
Deb Mellett Gurindji – General Manager



Message from the Chairperson

As we embark on the journey into 2024, Nairm Marr Djambana stands at the threshold of a new era, mindful of the trials and tribulations that marked our passage through 2023. I am proud to say I have been elected as the new Chairperson for Nairm Marr Djambana. I understand I have big shoes to fill. With deep consideration, we remember the enduring legacy of our esteemed Chairperson and Elder Board member, Aunty Irene Fisher, whose unwavering commitment and leadership forged the path for our board and community. A guiding light during the YES campaign and a stalwart presence within our Board, Aunty Irene's contributions resonate within the very fabric of our organisation. In the wake of the deaths of numerous Elders, we honour their memories and celebrate their invaluable contributions, embodying the essence of NAIDOC YEAR - FOR OUR ELDERS.

In this moment of reflection, we also pay homage to the late MP of Dunkley, Peta Murphy, whose unwavering advocacy for Nairm Marr Djambana reverberated within parliamentary halls. Through her passion and steadfast support, Peta amplified our community's voice, championing our causes and aspirations. Her absence leaves a big void, yet her spirit remains woven into our collective memory.

Grateful for the privilege of serving as Chair of Nairm Marr Djambana, I carry forward the legacies of three extraordinary women whose influence has shaped my journey: Aunty Irene, Peta Murphy, and my cherished mother, Maureen Faith Strickland. In their honor, I pledge to uphold the principles of integrity, compassion, and resilience as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. With unwavering resolve, I am committed to amplifying the voices of our community, ensuring that their needs and aspirations remain at the forefront of our endeavors.

As we transition into this new chapter, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Jida McCartney, our newly appointed Treasurer. Together, we embark on a journey of collaboration and stewardship, ensuring the continuity of financial integrity and accountability within our organization. While bidding farewell to my role as Treasurer, I am confident in Jida's ability to uphold the responsibilities entrusted to him, and I eagerly anticipate our shared endeavors in the days ahead.

We are also unveiling our new Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028, which was crafted in collaboration with you, the Nairm community. Reflecting our shared vision and aspirations, this strategic roadmap outlines our collective journey towards a brighter, more inclusive future. Community members are invited to collect a copy from our office, symbolising our commitment to transparency and community engagement.

As we navigate the complexities of the year ahead, guided by the principles of our values and of resilience, solidarity, and community empowerment, we stand poised to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. With renewed vigor and a steadfast commitment to our shared values, we embark on this journey together, united in our pursuit of a more equitable and vibrant future.

Kerry Strickland
Chair, Nairm Marr Djambana



WHAT HAPPENED AT NAIRM OCT – DECEMBER

Elders Christmas Lunch

Nairm Marr Djambana proudly hosted 70 people at our Elders Christmas Luncheon, ensuring a delightful experience for all.

The Elders were treated to a sumptuous 3-course meal and the tables decorated by a centrepiece made by the Aboriginal Women's Group, Christmas bonbons, Nairm Catering lemon myrtle biscuits and other bits of Christmas cheer, creating an atmosphere of celebration, warmth and camaraderie. The event featured a captivating performance by the talented young singer, Jason, whose variety of tunes resonated with the audience. The celebration continued as our Elders took to the dance floor, accompanied by the enchanting performances of Skyla and Jamilla, leaving everyone in awe.

We are thrilled to announce the success of the free raffle, which saw four lucky winners receiving beautiful Aboriginal designs on pottery. A special thank you goes to the Bunurong Land Council and First Peoples Health and Wellbeing for their generous sponsorship, which played a pivotal role in making this magnificent event possible. The positive feedback from our Elders reflects the success of the day, with many expressing their gratitude for the memorable experience. As a token of love and appreciation, each Elder received a Christmas gift, adding an extra layer of joy to the festivities.

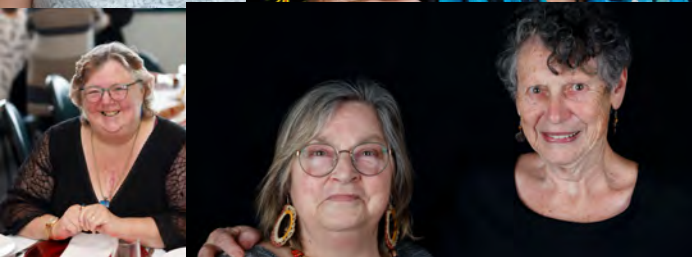
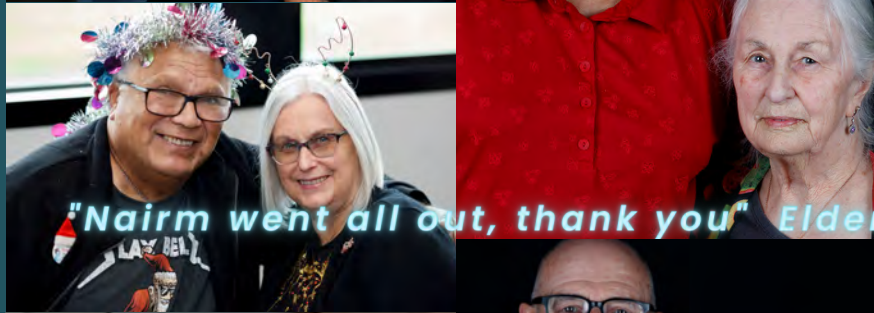
We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who contributed their time and efforts to ensure our Elders needs were met through the event. Your commitment is truly valued, and without your support, this fantastic day would not have been possible.

As usual we had Yanni taking photos of our Elders to ensure we continue to capture the Faces of our Elders for prosperity.

In closing, the Elders Lunch was a resounding success, creating lasting memories and strengthening the bonds within our community. We look forward to more opportunities to come together, celebrate, and continue building a sense of unity and connection.



"best event I have attended" Uncle Barry



WHAT HAPPENED AT NAIRM OCT - DECEMBER

Family Christmas Party

The Family Christmas party was a testament to resilience and community spirit, despite the sweltering heat and the absence of our beloved pine tree, severely damaged by a lightning bolt just two days prior to the festivities.

We've learnt from this and next year we will have more marquees out for you all.

The turnout was heartening, with numerous community members and families gathering for Christmas fun.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Good Shepherd Team for their generous donation and efforts in supplying all the meat and manning the BBQ, truly exemplifying the spirit of allyship.

Children were delighted by Aimee's Circus activities and the incredible talents of the face painter. Santa's arrival on a fire truck, escorted by his trusty elves, added to the excitement, alongside the presence of the two transformers who entertained the kids.

Our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to serve ice creams and drinks, providing much-needed relief from the heat. The joy on the faces of the children as they received 175 gifts including those gifted by Monash Uni staff, SWAN members, Mullum Mullum, DHHF staff, generous individuals, the Cross Family, Aunty Rosemary, Aunty Leonie, Our Songlines, Nairm Staff members, others from the Aboriginal community, was truly heartwarming.

Go to our facebook page to see the Christmas pics in the form of a slide show.



175

Gifts handed
out



Community Lunches

Our weekly lunches continue to be popular with around 50-65 people served a 2 course meal. It will be great to have everyone back. The pictures to the right were of our last lunch with a Christmas theme. The Grinch forgot to turn up last year but everyone had a fabulous time.

Our 2nd Blak Market

Our community of artists asked to host a second Blak Market so in December we did just that. We had over 400 visitors over the day all stall holders reported great sales. Feedback from the public was wonderful and asked for more. Watch this space. We had 15 stall holders.

Skyla entertained the kids and Jarrin sang a few of his originals.

We are keen to get your feedback on how to improve on our markets.



420  community lunches served Oct - Dec.

Our Christmas T-Shirt



Held our 2nd blak market





NIC - CATERING MANAGER

I was born In Hobart Tasmania, Nipaluna. I started my career as a cook at 15 years old, I also tried my hand at Waiting tables and behind the bar, before realizing my passion was in the Kitchen.

took My first Roll as a executive Chef at a hotel on the Tasman Peninsula. I worked at many other restaurants over the years where I have held the position as restaurant manager, sous chef and head chef. I learnt so much working at a variety of different kinds of restaurants.

I am the proud father of my first baby 8 month old Isabelle Ruby. I love working at Djambana and interacting with the community and staff. It is a great opportunity for me to learn about our First Nation's Culture.



VANESSA- ADMINISTRATION

Meet Vanessa.

I'm a proud Pasifika woman.

My parents migrated to Australia in 1973 from Fiji. My father is Rotuman and Samoan. My Mother is Fijian and Samoan.

I was the Projects and Volunteers Coordinator at Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place out in Ringwood before coming to work at Djambana.

I've worked and volunteered in the Neighbourhood House community sector for over 20 years in the outer East.

I am also a Senior Library Technician and worked in school libraries for 10 years. It has been an absolute pleasure working as the Administrative Support Officer. Unfortunately I have moved to Point Cook. My last day at Nairn Marr Djambana was Friday 9 Feb, 2024.



ITC PROGRAM

Do you have a chronic disease and are in need of help to get to your medical appointments or for Nairn to help pick up your medication then Nairn Marr Djambana can help.

Meet Louise (Lou) Beddows our new ITC Outreach officer. Lou commenced with us in October last year and has been busy responding to our clients in need.

Call Lou to find out more about the service and whether you qualify for assistance.



JENAYA - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

I'm a proud Wiradjuri woman, I am lucky enough to live and learn on Bunurong Country with my amazing family of five, who have supported me on my cultural journey.

My passion is my Community. I am lucky to have the opportunity to work with the beautiful Nairm Marr Djambana staff and Community. Another passion of mine is getting Youth involved with programs Nairm Marr Djambana provides, and programs running in Community which involves our Youth stepping into leadership opportunities.

My role as the Youth engagement officer is important as our Youth are the emerging leaders, story tellers and Elders for our community. This role provides me the chance to learn and share my own achievements. I hope to inspire Youth to keep them engaged in cultural activities and leadership opportunities.



AUNTY DEB - GENERAL MANAGER

Aunty Deb is a Gurindji Woman from the Northern Territory who grew up on Larrakeyah land (Darwin). She Learnt culture and cultural protocol from her Grandmother and eventually moved to the Mornington Peninsula some 25 years ago.

With over 30 years managerial experience including:
23 years in the Commonwealth Government - CES Manager,
Contract Manager, Aboriginal Program Manager for NT.
Senior Social Planner, Aboriginal Cultural and Community
Development Mornington Peninsula Shire
Southern Metropolitan Partnership member
Volunteer - Community Liaison Breast Cancer Network Australia
(BCNA)

Breast screen Australia Ambassador
Reconciliation Action Plan consultant
Key role in establishing Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association.

Passionate about Community and doing the right thing by Nairm Marr Djambana.

Our very dedicated kitchen staff



WHAT'S HAPPENING



NAIRM MEN'S PROGRAM

EVERY FRIDAY
9.30am-11.30am

LUNCH AT 12
commencing
9 Feb 2024

Nairm Marr Djambana
32 Nursery Ave
FRANKSTON
VIC 3199

Call to register
or just turn up
Friday

Cultural Learning Program with Uncle Lionel Lauch Yidiki workshop



CHILD SAFE
NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA IS A CHILD SAFE ORGANISATION

VICTORIA State Government Health and Human Services

Please call us on 9783 1521 to register your interest

LIVING CULTURE



Koorie Maternity Service (KMS)

Pregnancy, Child Birth and Yarning Group

Weekly health yarning our way

WEDNESDAYS 12:45-15:00
from 7th February, 2024

Nairm Marr Djambana
Aboriginal Gathering Place
32 Nursery Ave, Frankston

Join us at the weekly program, connecting with Koori Maternity Services Midwives, Danielle Cameron and Sarah Uba.

Program includes:

- child birth education
- health and cultural yarning
- breastfeeding
- support in growing confidence in preparation for birth and postnatal
- belly casting / painting and possum skin work
- self care and wellbeing
- cultural activities and
- Elders support.

ALL mums, bubs, supporters and toddlers welcome. A light feed and cuppa provided.

To book please email KMS@phcn.vic.gov.au or phone 0466 343 132. Self referrals welcome. Please note: Please keep attending your scheduled midwife appointments, no matter where you booked to birth.

The project has been supported by funding from the Victorian Government Department of Health under the Indigenous Australia Health Program. The acknowledgment of the traditional owners and custodians of this land will be provided to the relevant local government and the project will be supported by the relevant local government.

Frankston City **Perinatal Health** **PHCN** **Indigenous Health** **Indigenous Health** **Indigenous Health**




COMMUNITY LUNCH

EVERY THURSDAY
12NOON - 2PM

NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA
32 NURSERY AVE
FRANKSTON


GATHER! YARN! EAT!

We're Back! See you there

Connecting Together Evening Men's Group

Men connecting together to support your cultural, physical and mental health.



Tuesday Nights
32 Nursery Ave
FRANKSTON VIC 3199
5.00PM - 7.00PM
9783 1521 for more information
Light supper provided

WHAT'S HAPPENING



**Wominjeka
bubups and
Kirrups**

**Kirrup Playtime
is back**

**Every Thursday
during the school
term
10am - 12pm**

**Call Nairm Marr Djambana
office on 9783 1521 to
register**



CHILD SAFE
NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA IS
A CHILD SAFE ORGANISATION



**KOORIE
WOMEN'S
ART AND
CULTURE
GROUP**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY
10AM TO 12NOON**

A PROGRAM FOR ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
WOMEN
TO

CONNECT
CREATE ART
GO ON CULTURAL EXCURSIONS
CONNECT WITH OTHER KOORIE
WOMEN'S GROUPS
ACTIVITIES

LUNCH INCLUDED



headspace

Ages 14-18

Nairm Marr Djambana
32 Nursery Ave
FRANKSTON

Every Wednesday
evening
from 4:30pm-6pm



YOUTH PROGRAM

Have a yarn and
connect with
others and
participate in
Cultural Activities!

Please note this
program is for
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Youth only

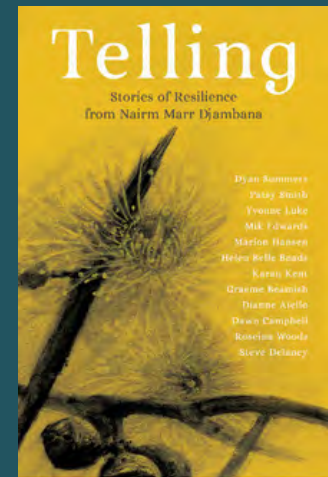
youthofficer@djambana.org.au
(03) 9783 1521

THANK YOU

GIVING TREE



*Thank you to everyone
who contributed to the
giving tree. We received 80
donations and were able
to give 175 presents to the
children.*



Stories from our diverse community

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nairn Marr Djambana seized the opportunity presented by the COVID Recovery funding to keep our community engaged and empowered. Our vision was simple yet profound: to honor the wisdom of our older community members and elders by inviting them to share their stories, preserving their legacies for generations to come.

Twelve community members eagerly joined our initiative, each carrying within them a wealth of experiences and insights. With the support of Sina Summers from Impact Stories, we embarked on a journey of deep listening, uncovering narratives rich in culture, resilience, and wisdom.

In 2023, the culmination of our efforts manifested in the form of individual audio recordings. However, our journey took an unexpected turn when a publishing agent recognized the significance of our stories and introduced them to Magabala Books.

Magabala Books embraced our project with enthusiasm, recognizing its inherent value and deeming it worthy of publication as a collection. Thus, our stories transcended the confines of our community, resonating with readers across Australia and beyond.

Yet, the true measure of success lies not only in the book's accolades but in the empowerment of our storytellers. Every book sold means a commission that goes directly to them, ensuring that their contributions are not only celebrated but economically recognized. For Nairn Marr Djambana, this endeavor goes beyond mere publication; it exemplifies our commitment to fostering a self-determining community where every voice is honoured and uplifted.

As our book graces readers' shelves and garners acclaim, it stands as a testament to the resilience, wisdom, and unity of our diverse community. Each page embodies a legacy of strength and storytelling, a legacy that will endure for generations to come.

Telling: Stories of Resilience

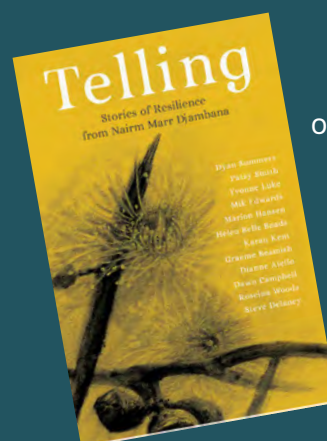
Edited by Sina Summers Nairn Marr Djambana Aboriginal Corporation

The 12 short life stories in *Telling* are grounded in First Nations storytelling traditions and reveal the diverse and complex nature of the experience of living in the wake of colonialisation. *Telling* fits with this year's NAIDOC theme, For Our Elders. It also speaks to the contemporary political movement for truth-telling and Treaty in Victoria and nationally. The voices of First Nations Elders living in Victoria are prioritised and honoured in this work.

These stories are from all over Australia. Each Elder reflects on intergenerational trauma, Stolen Generations, reconnection and resistance, demonstrating their deeply felt Black pride and joy and celebrating their stories of survival.

Aunty Yvonne Luke recounts her epic journey of reconnecting to Alyawerre country after several generations of removal. Koori leader Uncle Mik Edwards describes his brave story of survival after being removed forcibly from his family in 1967, and Marion Hansen tells of her surprise at being crowned Miss NAIDOC in 1969.

The evocative photographs provided by the authors bring an intimacy to this vital historical testimony that will be enjoyed by Indigenous and non-Indigenous readers alike.



ON SALE AT NAIRN MARR DJAMBANA

\$28

THANK YOU

**To all our supporters,
volunteers,
stakeholders and
community who
contribute to the growth
of Nairm.**

Together we flourish.