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**Marie Griffiths**

## From The Acting CEO

**I hope this message finds you all well. I wanted to take a moment to share some exciting updates, celebrate our recent achievements, and look ahead to what's coming up.**

Firstly, our NAIDOC Week events across all of our sites showcased some amazing turnouts. The engagement and participation from you, our community, was truly heartwarming. From the vibrant cultural displays to the educational workshops and community gatherings, every event was a testament to our collective spirit and commitment to honouring our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history,

culture, and achievements. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making these events meaningful and memorable.

I'm also happy to announce that our Community Café in Swan Hill is now up and running, following the success of our Community Café in Mildura, which opened in early 2023. We wanted to be able to bring this initiative to our Swan Hill community as well. It will be great to watch another space provide free meals for our community and offer a chance to connect with other people, staff, and community alike. The dedication and hard work that went into getting this project off the ground are greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, the search for our new Chief Executive and Company Secretary is progressing well. The Board and I have worked hard to find the most suitable and capable people to fill these roles. A further update will come at our upcoming Members Forum. We have also recently undertaken a review and external audit of our Wiimpatja

Healing Centre program, where we have identified areas and room for improvement. As a result, we have decided to pause referrals, in order to make vital improvements to the model of care and the facility. As part of this process, we are reviewing the current residential program to adopt a more holistic model that strengthens our cultural healing process, and better supports outcomes for our clients.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to remind you all about the upcoming NAIDOC Balls. This event promises to be a wonderful celebration of culture, community, and connection. It will be a fantastic opportunity for us to come together, enjoy great food and entertainment, and reflect on the importance and meaning of NAIDOC. I can't wait to experience the occasions with you all.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Stay safe, stay deadly and be kind.



# FROM THE BOARD

Jenene Murray - Chair, Mildura

MDAS Board of Directors would like to congratulate our Cultural Engagement Team on the fabulous effort and teamwork in presenting NAIDOC festivities and events and looking forward to seeing you all at the Seniors' and Youth Balls coming up. Also proud of our whole team for pulling together and going above and beyond while the Board finds suitable replacement CEO and Company Secretary.

There have been some important changes in

leadership and those who have stepped up have helped steady the course and create lasting change which will continue to benefit community into the future. There is so much to be proud of and we look forward to making announcements at our All Members' meeting on **Wednesday 14th August at all MDAS locations from 5:30pm** with a light meal served from 6:30pm. If you are not a member, it is not too late to get your application in.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### NAIDOC FAMILY FUN DAY & FLAG RAISING

It was great to see so many attend our NAIDOC events this year and represent this year's theme, 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud'. We at Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) were so happy to see so much of you, our community, attend and participate in helping celebrate, recognise history, and keep culture alive in the Mallee and surrounding areas.

Our communities and mob were able to come together for a smoking ceremony, enjoy cultural dances performed by local groups, have a meal, and take in what the day had to offer. We would like to thank you, for showing up and supporting our NAIDOC Flag Raise and Family Fun Day events. We also extend our thanks to the other organisations that attended the day to hold stalls, provide important information to the community, and showcase the services available in the area.







## ACE TEAM VISIT REGIS AGED CARE

Earlier in July, members from our Aboriginal Culture and Community Engagement Team visited Regis Aged Care. Aunty Tanya and Kalkiri headed down to perform a smoking ceremony, run a workshop creating Aboriginal artwork, and play the didgeridoo for everyone. It was great to see so many smiles and well done to the team.



## YOUTH HUB OPEN DAY

Last month, we had an open day for our Youth Hub in Mildura. Everyone was able to come along and see what our Youth Hub has to offer for community. The day had a smoking ceremony, a deadly BBQ feed, t-shirt design competition and many more activities. It was great to see so many of you there and in attendance, including seeing our youth using our refreshed hub space.



## SWAN HILL POLICE STATION MURAL

The front entrance of the Swan Hill Police Station has recently seen a makeover. The Swan Hill Aboriginal Culture and Community Engagement working alongside the Swan Hill

Youth Team, came together with their kids to construct a mural for the front of the station. 'This painting tells a story of what happened along the river. The children have chosen symbols to describe a journey by adding emu tracks, spears, the sun, and a campfire'. Make sure if you are nearby to check out the new mural.



# MILDURA HEALTH RECEPTION RE-OPENING

Our new Health Reception in Mildura is now open, make sure if you haven't already to go have a look at our new deadly space. We hope community can enjoy a more inclusive and inviting space. We also would like to thank everyone for their patience while construction for the new reception was underway and are happy now renovations are complete.



## MEET A MEMBER OF OUR MILDURA TEAM



### **JUSTINE MATHERS** Acting Practice Manager

Justine has been working in the Aboriginal Health space for the past 14 years (11 of those with us at MDAS). She has held a number of different roles during her time with us, navigating and learning as best she can to develop the skills needed to support her team in delivering safe, holistic services to our community. Justine is also very passionate about identifying gaps in our service and working with the team to understand in what ways, we can do better.

## MEET A MEMBER OF OUR SWAN HILL TEAM



### JODY HOCKING

Health Promotions Officer

Jody recently joined our MDAS family this year and has already been very busy in Swan Hill, educating all ages on important health matters.

Along with her team, Jody has helped create many of the recent health events you might have seen or attended, such as The Biggest Morning Tea and National Diabetes Day in Swan Hill. Well done, Jody! We will make sure to spell your name correctly in our future TikToks together.

## WHAT'S ON AT MDAS



**BLACK, LOUD AND PROUD  
NAIDOC BALL 2024**

### Mildura Senior NAIDOC Ball

TICKETS: \$70  
Saturday 31st August | 5:30PM - 11:30PM  
Mildura Homestead, 278A Cureton Ave  
Ages: 18+ ONLY  
Special guests: Lil Mase, Kevin Kropinyeri, The Black Shadows & DJ Rockit

### Mildura Youth NAIDOC Ball

TICKETS: \$35  
Saturday 2nd November | 5:30PM - 11:00PM  
Mildura Sporting Precinct, 284 Deakin Ave  
Ages: 12 - 17 (Guardians must attend)  
Special guests: Lil Mase, Kevin Kropinyeri & DJ Scopa

This National NAIDOC Week Activity is funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency

Tickets are available at MDAS Old Age Care Building  
116 Orange Avenue, Mildura | Eftpos only  
For more information contact: Pam McCormack  
pmmccormack@mdas.org.au | 0436 814 093



## HEALTH SCREENING DAY

Regular health checks are essential and important, come along to our Health Screening Day and make sure your health is in order.

Appointments can be made by phone, or walk-ins will be available on the day.

WHERE	WHEN	TIME
MDAS Kerang 9 Nolan St, Kerang	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> August, 2024	All Day

Health Screening Day | (03) 5412 6004 | mdas.org.au



**Swan Hill Cafe**  
**Now Open**

Sandwiches | Hot Food | Cold Drinks  
 Coffee | Community Food

Have something you want us to feature?  
 Contact us at:  
[media@mdas.org.au](mailto:media@mdas.org.au)

*"Self-determined, healthy, robust and culturally strong Aboriginal communities across the Mallee region."*



**ALL MEMBERS FORUM**

**Wednesday 14th August**  
**5:30pm - 8:30pm**

Evening meal will be served from 6:30pm -7:00pm  
 Mildura Community Hall to be streamed into Swan Hill and Kerang

<b>KERANG</b>	<b>MILDURA</b>	<b>SWAN HILL</b>
11 Nolan Street 03 5430 3019	120 Madden Avenue 03 5018 4100	70 Nyah Road 03 5032 8600