

THE BULDAU YIOOHGEN PROGRAM PRESENTS

BIG DREAMS

EMBRACING CULTURE AT ANGLICARE VICTORIA

BULDAU YIOOHGEN NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023



WOMINJEKA

Come with purpose.

Cabbe melemung'il narrin-ik Kellie.

Hello my name is Kellie.

It's been an amazing year working with the Leadership Academy. The Buldau Yioohgen team have been busy making some memorable moments with our young people from across Victoria. We are so proud of all nine young people who participated in the Leadership Academy this year. We've watched you grow, and build confidence to become leaders in your community.

Thank you to our partner organisations for your commitment in supporting our young people and their career opportunities. Buldau Yioohgen are here to support every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person that is part of Anglicare Victoria.

Since the last newsletter we have been running a range of cultural workshops with a great attendance from community. Don't forget to check your emails for the next upcoming events. If you're not on the mailing list, please email us to get onto it.

The next First Peoples Staff Network meeting is at Darrango yan-dhan on Wednesday 22 November. We'll be choosing a name for the group together, so don't forget to join in and come with suggestions. Please email us to register your attendance.

Ngoon Godgin

Kellie Hunter
Senior Cultural Operations Lead





EXPLORING CAREER PATHWAYS ON THE NARRM SOUTHERN EXPERIENCE

In June, nine young people joined Aunty Kellie and Uncle Les at Darrango yan-dhan for the Narrm Southern Experience. Narrm, meaning scrub in the Woiwurrung language, is the name given to the Melbourne area by the Wurundjeri people. Over four days they had the opportunity to visit some of Buldau Yioohgen's corporate partners and learn about the careers of other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The week began with a trip to the ANZ Centre for a tour of their amazing facilities, including the art gallery, basketball courts and boardroom. We heard from inspiring speakers from across the organisation who shared where they came from and how they got to where they are today. One of the highlights of the day was playing basketball upstairs with an amazing view of Docklands.

We also visited Darley Stables at Northwood Park, chose some new runners at Rebel Sport thanks to Tennis Victoria, and enjoyed a Money Minded session with Uncle Les.

Later in the week we toured the Victorian Police Academy in Mount Waverley and the Eastern Hill Fire Station, before finishing up with a visit to Seven West Media and the North Melbourne Football Club.

A huge thank you to all our partners who made the Narrm Southern Experience possible:

- ANZ
- Darley Stables
- Tennis Australia
- Taungurung Land and Waters Council
- Victoria Police
- Fire Rescue Victoria
- Seven West Media
- North Melbourne Football Club



BULDAU YIOOHGEN HEADS TO THE TOP END FOR THE FOURTH NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TENNIS CARNIVAL

10 young people from Buldau Yioohgen jetted up to the Darwin International Tennis Centre on Larrakia Country in August to attend the National Indigenous Tennis Carnival (NITC).

The NITC was led by 14-time Grand Slam Champion Evonne Goolagong Cawley (Wiradjuri) and aims to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture, Community and wellbeing. Over 160 young people from every state and territory took part in four days of tennis for players of all abilities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture was woven through the event, which was packed with activities such as basket weaving and spear throwing, as well an opening performance from BARKAA (Malyangapa and Barkindji).

We also participated in a three-hour cultural workshop with Yanyuwa and Larrakia Elder Uncle Kim Mulholland. Uncle Kim spoke about cultural healing, and how the maintenance of cultural practices in young people can lead them on this path.

UNCLE RAY THOMAS BRINGS HIS DEADLY ART SKILLS TO MORWELL

We were thrilled to welcome Uncle Ray Thomas back to Buldau Yioohgen recently for another of his deadly art workshops. A highly acclaimed self-taught artist and proud Gunnai man, Uncle Ray has won several awards for his art and is best known for his large murals at the Northcote Town Hall and behind the Aboriginal Advancement League. His work has also been featured on the Avon River bridge and on a tram for Melbourne's RISING festival.

Nine young people and six adults participated in the workshop at Anglicare Victoria's Morwell office, including members of AV's Aboriginal Youth Justice program, Kickback. Kickback is designed to help Aboriginal young people who are at risk of offending or becoming disengaged from school, by providing

"It's not just about tennis but about learning from each other and learning from each other's Country."



Congratulations to all the young people who attended and represented Team Victoria at the NITC this year, and a big shout out to Tennis Victoria for their continued support of Buldau Yioohgen.



them with mentoring and opportunities to pursue their interests – making Uncle Ray's workshop the perfect activity for all the art lovers in the group. Local Victoria Police members also came along, to say g'day and build positive relationships with the young people.

AV staff who were working in the building joined the group for lunch and tried their hand at a bit of painting throughout the day. Everyone was excited to learn some new techniques and as you can see, the finished works looked amazing.



TAHLIA WHEATLEY, YORTA YORTA WOMAN AND RISING TENNIS CHAMPION

Tahlia Wheatley is a proud Yorta Yorta woman who first met the Buldau Yioohgen team through her love of tennis. In 2022, Tahlia attended the National Indigenous Tennis Carnival (NITC) alongside Tennis Victoria, placing fourth in the competition. It was in Larrakia Country when she caught up with Aunty Kellie and Uncle Les through the Tennis Victoria and Buldau Yioohgen partnership, and they thought she was a perfect candidate for the program.

Reflecting on the first time she walked into Darrango yan-dhan, Tahlia said "It felt like home, seeing all the pictures along the walls from different years and the fire pit outside. It got rid of my nerves."



Tahlia's passion for tennis came full circle in August this year when she returned to Garramilla (Darwin) to play in the NITC again. She says it was her favourite program, and that it was cool to play against other Indigenous kids. Tahlia was fascinated by the teachings of Yanyuwa and Larrakia Elder Uncle Kim Mullholland, saying "It's good to see a different side to Culture up at the top."

In exciting news, Tahlia has secured a position in customer service at the Australian Open next year. Remembering her first steps into the program, she says "I was quiet, reserved, and shy. Now I feel like I've grown as a person and put myself out there". Over the course of a year, Tahlia has grown as a young leader in the sporting world with Culture walking alongside her.

"It's not an everyday thing that Indigenous kids get this opportunity, I feel proud and grateful."

The memories of other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth displayed on the walls of the centre provide a homely environment, where young people feel surrounded by Culture. Tahlia says that seeing what she was about to do in the next year on the walls was exciting.

Upcoming dates:

27th October	Expressions of interest close for the next Buldau Yioohgen Leadership Academy intake	Please submit your expressions of interest before the 27th of October.
15th November	Culture on Court Gippsland	Join us in Traralgon for a game of tennis and learn about Culture.
22nd November	First Peoples Staff Network	Come and yarn with the Buldau Yioohgen mob at our Cultural Centre.
7th December	Culture on Court Bendigo	Learn about Culture whilst enjoying a game of tennis.

Contact by anglicarevic.org.au for more information.