

THE BULDAU YIOOHGEN PROGRAM PRESENTS

BIG DREAMS

EMBRACING CULTURE AT ANGLICARE VICTORIA

BULDAU YIOOHGEN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



WOMINJEKA

Come with purpose.

Cabbe melemung'il narrin-ik Kellie.

Hello my name is Kellie.

What a year Buldau Yioohgen has had! It's been another amazing year filled with Cultural workshops and Culture on Court programs to build relationships with the Mob state-wide.

Our 2023 Leadership Academy participants were an absolute pleasure to walk alongside while they built on their Cultural knowledge throughout the year. They have set the expectations of what the Buldau Yioohgen program can and will deliver in 2024 and into the future.

Seeing the nine young people participate in our first graduation ceremony was a very proud moment for everyone involved. We want to say a very big thank you to our partner organisations for your commitment in supporting our young people and their career opportunities. Our team are looking forward to working with you all in the new year to create further opportunities for our Mob.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in supporting Buldau Yioohgen, from the CEO to the directors, regional managers, team leaders, case workers, and community.

Buldau Yioohgen is about creating opportunities for everyone to dream big! See you all in 2024, stay safe and have a Deadly Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ngoon Godgin

Kellie Hunter

Senior Cultural Operations Lead





YALINGUTH, YALINGBU, YIIRAMBOI - BULDAU YIOOHGEN'S INAUGURAL PARTNER CONFERENCE

In October, Buldau Yioohgen hosted our first ever Partner Conference. The theme of the two-day conference was Yalinguth, Yalingbu, Yiiramboi, which means Yesterday,

Today, Tomorrow in the Woiwurrung language.

The event was hosted by Darley/Godolphin at their historic Northwood Park facility and began with Welcome to Country from Taungurung Elder Aunty Jo Honeysett and a Smoking Ceremony. Uncle Kim Mulholland (Larrakia and Yanyuwa) came along to discuss the science of Aboriginal Culture and spiritual well-being, and Tyrese Walsh (Taungurung and Kurnai) spoke about how participating in the leadership academy had changed his life.



It was fantastic to catch up with our partner organisations, including Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC), Tennis Australia, Fire Rescue Victoria, Tennis Victoria, Victoria Police, Complete Office Supplies and North Melbourne Football Club.

These organisations have provided career experiences, volunteer opportunities and facility tours for our young people throughout the year, allowing them to gain an insight into the different pathways that are available to them.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: BDAC

BDAC has collaborated with Anglicare Victoria and the Buldau Yioohgen program for many years and in 2023, two staff members and two young people from BDAC took part in our Leadership Academy. Our partnership with BDAC helps us strengthen relationships, broaden perspectives and deepen Cultural connections, and we look forward to working with them again in 2024 and beyond.



A MAP OF IDENTITY: YOUNG PEOPLE REVIVING THE POSSUM SKIN CLOAK

In October the Buldau Yioohgen Leadership Academy hosted our first possum skin cloak workshop, rebirthing the thousand-year-old tradition of mapping the identity of its owner and the stories of their Clan and Country. Prior to colonisation, cloaks began as a few small skins together wrapped around the baby, with new skins added over time as the person grew, along with their stories. Cloaks were designed for the lifetime of the individual and often held 40-70 skins sewn together at adulthood. In this way, the cloak is more than an item of clothing – it is a map of identity.

Over the course of four Buldau Yioohgen on-Country experiences, the participants were tasked with designing and etching their story onto one pelt per camp, to eventually sew the four pelts together at the closing of the year.



The workshop was facilitated by Bobbie Pepper, who assisted each young person to sew their skins together to form a shawl. Bobbie, a Wotjobaluk, Gunaikurnai woman with ties to Taungurung, has a background in creating and delivering Koorie Leadership programs and leading the Taungurung Youth Group called Wayilak Bayubarring meaning 'youth round circle' in the Taungurung language.

In the mid-1800s, government-issued cotton blankets replaced many of the individual possum skins owned by communities. They were neither warm or dry, and so the practice of creating the cloak was thought to be lost. With pieces of knowledge from communities across the south-east of the continent, the information to craft the cloak has slowly been re-established from the grassroots.

One young person on the day expressed their joy that they could pass on this knowledge to their younger siblings, taking extra materials so that their family could have a go when they returned home.

Following the workshop, the handcrafted possum skin shawls were handed to each young person at the inaugural Buldau Yioohgen Leadership Academy Graduation in November. The event was held at Melbourne Museum for families, carers, and friends to attend alongside all nine graduates, to wrap up the year. Each young person was presented with a certificate of completion, a stole in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag colours, and a gift bag of Indigenous products.



BULDAU YIOOHGEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2023 ALUMNI



JASMINE HEYWOOD
(Gunditjmara)



TRAVIS MELDRUM
(Yorta Yorta and
Wamba Wamba)



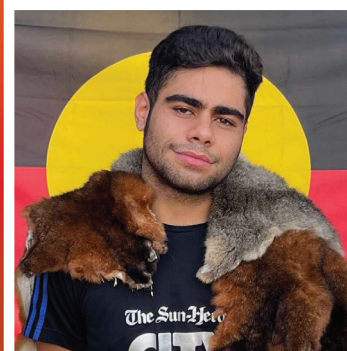
LUCIA GAUCI
(Kurnai Gunai)



GUNDITJMARA PROCTOR
(Gunditjmara)



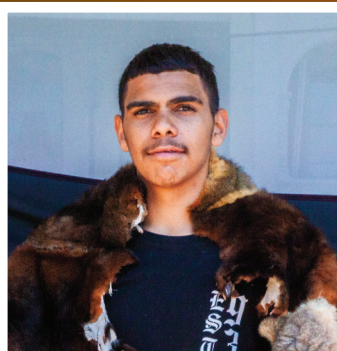
AMBER WALLACE
(Kuku Yalanji
and Yidindji)



MATTHEW FARRANT-GLASS
(Muthi Muthi, Tati Tati and
Wiradjuri)



TAHLIA WHEATLEY
(Yorta Yorta)



DAMIEN HAYES
(Madi Madi, Yorta Yorta,
Gunaikurnai and Gunditjmara)



TYRESE WALSH
(Taungurung and Kurnai)