

THE BULDAU YIOOHGEN PROGRAM PRESENTS

# BIG DREAMS

EMBRACING CULTURE AT ANGLICARE VICTORIA

BULDAU YIOOHGEN NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024



## WOMINJEKA

Come with purpose.

**Cabbe melemung'il narrin-ik Kellie.**

Hello, my name is Kellie.

Since 2022, we've been travelling the state to support Anglicare Victoria (AV) staff to set up cultural spaces in their offices. We've now created cultural spaces in Bendigo, Echuca, Morwell, Box Hill, Lilydale, Preston and Broadmeadows for staff and clients to use that are culturally appropriate and safe. Every month we visit the cultural spaces to see staff and drop in for a yarn.

In May, young people in the leadership academy took part in a guard of honour for the North Melbourne Football Club during this year's Sir Doug Nicholls Round at Marvel Stadium.

In June, Uncle Ray Thomas (Gunnai) facilitated an art workshop and Aunty Trina Dalton-Oogjes (Wadawurrung) taught a basket weaving workshop in Bendigo. At Darrango yan-dhan we held a resume writing workshop with guidance from the AV recruitment team.

Ngoon Godgin (thank you) to our partner organisations for your commitment in supporting our young people and their future careers.

If you'd like a cultural space set up in your AV office, please reach out to [by@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:by@anglicarevic.org.au).

**Kellie Hunter**

**Senior Cultural Operations Lead**

**Buldau Yioohgen**

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# CAMPING, FISHING, AND BOOMERANG THROWING ON THIS YEAR'S LAKE MUNGO CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

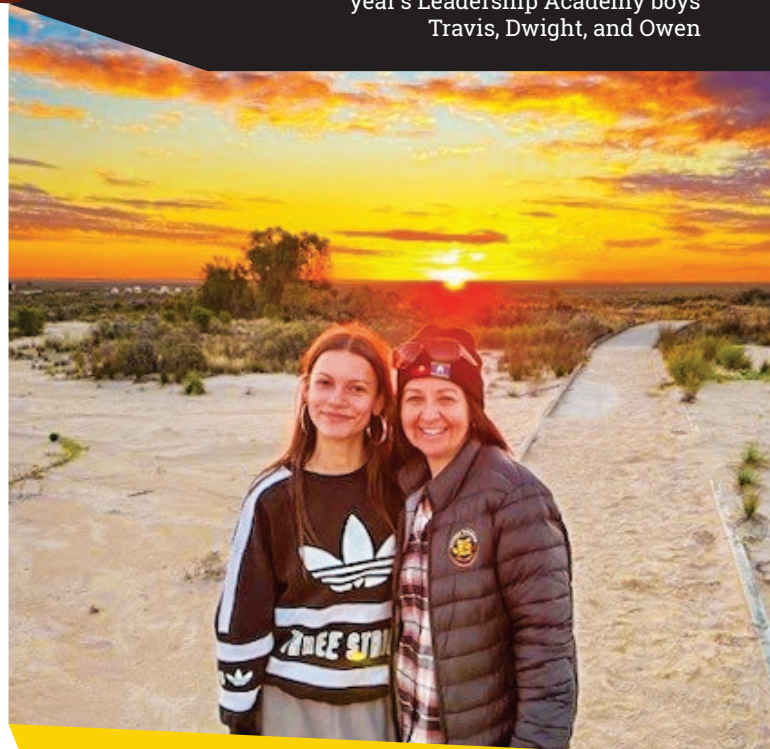


Tyrese, Buldau Yioohgen alumni, enjoying the sunset with this year's Leadership Academy boys Travis, Dwight, and Owen

Lake Mungo National Park is a historic site of First Peoples archaeological remains that set the record straight on Indigenous peoples and their custodianship of this continent dating back 42,000 years. On the homelands of the Barkandji, Mutthi Mutthi and Ngiyampaa people, the Buldau Yioohgen Leadership Academy trip marks an important milestone on the journey of each young person.

Starting the trip camping and fishing on the river side of Moulamein on Wamba Wamba country, the Leadership Academy were joined by Uncle Ron Murray, a Wamba Wamba True Custodian and a craftsman in Yidaki and boomerang making. Uncle Ron took the young people out to the local footy oval in Moulamein for a boomerang throwing session, with hand-crafted left- and right-handed boomerangs for the young people to have a go. Everyone had a crack at throwing the boomerangs and some even came back!

The cherry on top of the trip to Lake Mungo was a gorgeous sunset walk to the Walls of China, one of the most memorable sites in the ancient dry lake.



Aunty Kellie and Savanah on the boardwalk at Lake Mungo National Park

## SIR DOUGLAS NICHOLLS MATCH

The Buldau Yioohgen Leadership Academy and alumni were invited to participate in a guard of honour at the Sir Doug Nicholls Round, welcoming in North Melbourne Football Club! Each young person held gum leaves in their hands after a smoking ceremony on the side of the oval at Marvel Stadium. The Buldau Yioohgen Mob wore the special guernsey for this year's Indigenous round - 'Kangaroo Way', designed by Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmara, Ngadjonji and Taungurung artist Emma Bamblett.



## UNCLE RAY VISITS THE MOB IN BENDIGO AND GETS CREATIVE!

Uncle Ray Thomas is an award-winning Gunnai artist specialising in cultural designs and imagery. Uncle Ray has painted murals in the Gippsland region sharing stories and designs of the Gunnai people and their Country. His work has been seen on the Snowy River bridge at Orbost to Marlo, as well as the Stratford train bridge.

Recently Buldau Yioohgen hosted an art workshop with Uncle Ray in Bendigo for young people in Anglicare Victoria's programs.

During the workshop, Uncle Ray talked about his unique art practice and how he brings his work to life. He always comes along with a big folder of his amazing artworks displaying proud Gunnai culture.

The workshop took place in one of the many cultural centres established by the Buldau Yioohgen team across the state. Participants had the chance to paint their totem, such as the long neck turtle or the goanna, or any animal they would like.

# SEEDS OF INTERNSHIPS, EMPLOYMENT AND WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES PLANTED IN NARRM

The Narrm Experience, made possible by Bulldau Yioohgen's corporate partnerships, is an amazing program for career development and leadership building. This year, young people in the Leadership Academy visited North Melbourne Football Club, Godolphin's Carbine Lodge, Victoria Police Academy, Eastern Hill Fire Station (Fire Rescue Victoria), Tennis Australia and the Racing.com studios.

Following last year's Narrm Experience program, Leadership Academy alumni secured internships and employment with a range of corporate partners such as Complete Office Supplies (COS), Tennis Australia for the Australian Open, and Anglicare Victoria.

The one-week experience gives the young people a chance to see the action behind the scenes at a range of organisations, from elite sporting and banking to media and emergency services.

One of AV's staff members, Tim Beissmann, volunteered with Bulldau Yioohgen for the Narrm Experience this year. Tim works as a Family Support Practitioner in Bendigo and reflected on his visit to the Victoria Police Academy: "For one young participant, a tour of the Police Academy is a dream come true".

**"She has her sights set on joining the force, and delighted in the opportunity to be behind the scenes and get a small taste of what life as a police officer may one day look like."**

Narrm week offers the young people in the Leadership Academy a foot in the door at these organisations, with some looking for Year 10 work experience opportunities, future university internships, or full-time employment after graduation.

The week wrapped up with a visit to Tennis Australia to prepare for the National Indigenous Tennis Carnival, which will be held in the heart of Darwin. Each young person will travel to the Top End for a sporting and cultural experience on the lands of the Larrakia people.

