BENDIGO AND DISTRICT ABORIGINAL CO-OPERATIVE AND DJA DJA WURRUNG CLANS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION WERE PROUD TO LEAD THIS YEAR’S BENDIGO EASTER PARADE.

The gala parade on Easter Sunday was the highlight of the annual Bendigo Easter Festival, which celebrates the diversity of people who have helped to shape our vibrant community.

As the traditional owners on Dja Dja Wurrung country, the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community turned out to welcome everyone to the event.

It was also a great opportunity to showcase our artistic talent and culture to the wider community.

Our float was made up of a big group of people marching with one ute and trailer, decorated in the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

BDAC and Dja Dja Wurrung worked together to decorate the float and organise 4000 flags, which were handed out to the crowd.

Information about Bendigo’s NAIDOC Week celebrations is on page 4 & 5.
MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

WELCOME TO THE WINTER EDITION OF THE KOORI GRAPEVINE!

This issue is packed full of community news and lots of events to look forward to, including NAIDOC Week in July and the 2016 Statewide Koori Football and Netball Carnival in October.

I am also pleased to announce that BDAC has been successful in being granted the Section 18 Rural Pilot program, which gives us decision-making powers for local Aboriginal children based in out-of-home care.

Over the next 12 months, we will work closely with 15 children to provide culturally appropriate support and decisions about their long-term welfare.

Section 18 of the Children, Youth and Families Act, passed through the Victorian Parliament in 2005, allows Aboriginal organisations to perform the functions of Child Protection Services.

BDAC is already providing this type of care through programs including case contracted care, placement support and stronger families.

Taking part in the rural pilot program is the next step, and we hope it will pave the way for other Aboriginal community controlled organisations to commit to self-determination of our community.

We don’t imagine it will be without challenges, but we are committed to making a difference to our children’s lives.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

A new season is upon us, and brings with it a new edition of the BDAC newsletter.

We are happy to report that our new website is up and running, so please pay us a visit at www.bdac.com.au and let us know what you think.

It is also good to see that stage one of our building development at Prouses Road is progressing well. We are now working hard to secure funding for stage two of the project, which will include childcare and other essential community services.

BDAC has been involved in a number of successful community events over the past few months, perhaps none more so than a Reconciliation Week barbecue with former football greats Adam Goodes and Michael O’Loughlin.

We were lucky to welcome them to Bendigo and have them share their cultural and sporting knowledge with local school children and the wider community.

Please keep reading for details of upcoming events. Hope to see you there!

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned this document contains images of deceased persons.
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATE

The building development at Prouses Road is really starting to take shape.

Construction of the new health and community centre is progressing on time and on budget, with stage one due to be completed in November.

Stage one will include a new medical clinic, administration area, family and community services building, car parks and landscaping.

The administration building is completed to slab and steel frame, and the internal wooden structure completed on the lower and upper levels. The medical building slab is complete, and workers have commenced on the steel frame and internal wooden framing on the upper and lower levels. The Family Services building slab and steel frame is complete, and the wooden structure has commenced to the lower level.

Work on the side drive and front car park has also commenced, with cutting in and guttering to one side completed.

Things might slow down a bit as we come into the wet season, but we will continue to keep you updated through our newsletter and website.

BDAC IS ONLINE

Our new website is now up and running at www.bdac.com.au. Visit us there for the latest community news, events, photos and jobs available at BDAC.

You will also find updates on the Prouses Road building development, and information about our services and programs.

We’d love your feedback about the new site – contact us on 03 5442 4947 or grapevine@bdac.com.au.

We are also now on Facebook, so please head over there and ‘like’ our page by searching for ‘Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-Operative’.

FOOTBALL & NETBALL SENIOR CARNIVAL – SAVE THE DATE!

BDAC is gearing up to host the Statewide Senior Football and Netball Carnival for the second year running.

The 2016 carnival will be held on October 15 and 16, so mark the date in your diaries!

It will again be hosted in partnership with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

We are looking forward to welcoming people from across Victoria back to Bendigo, and showcasing our talent and culture to the wider community.
BDAC NAIDOC Dinner

Friday 15th July 2016

Please celebrate an evening with us for dinner, entertainment and presentation of the 2016 Bendigo NAIDOC Awards.

From 6:00pm until late...

All Seasons Quality Resort
171-183 McIvor Road, Bendigo

Individual tickets and table bookings of 10 persons are available

Ticket cost is $80:00 per person

Please provide the names of table attendees at the time of booking

A tax invoice is available on request

Please note that this is an 18+year event

Tickets are not available on the night. Attendance must be registered and ticket bookings pre-paid prior to Friday 8th July 2016 by contacting Libby Chapman at BDAC on 5454 2720 or via email libby.chapman@bdac.com.au.

Empowered Generations Belonging to Strong Families, Culture and Community
NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS

We will mark this year’s NAIDOC Week with a number of events open to the whole community.

NAIDOC Week will be celebrated across Australia from 3–10 July. It is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements, and recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and society.

The theme for 2016 is ‘Songlines – The living narrative of our nation’. Songlines, or dreaming tracks, crisscross Australia and trace the journeys of our ancestral spirits as they created the land, animals and lores. They are intricate maps of land, sea and country, and are recorded in traditional songs, stories, dance and art.

Bendigo’s highlight event is always the BDAC NAIDOC Dinner, which will be held on 15 July. Tickets are now available, so come and join us for dinner, entertainment and the presentation of the 2016 Bendigo NAIDOC awards.

The first event – the Knuldoorong Art Exhibition – will kick off on 29 June and run for two weeks at Dudley House in View Street. The official opening will be held on Thursday 30 June.

Please see a list of all planned events below.

We will regularly update the NAIDOC page on our website with the latest details – www.bdac.com.au/naidoc.

NAIDOC EVENTS

Monday 4 July: City of Greater Bendigo Flag Raising and Reconciliation Action Plan launch

Monday 4 July: BDAC flag raising, BBQ and open day

Wednesday 6 July: BDAC Children’s Day

Thursday 7 July: La Trobe Koori Market

Friday 8 July: St John of God Community Lunch

Friday 15 July: BDAC NAIDOC Dinner (see Page 4 for more details)

Wednesday 29 June-Wednesday 13 July: Knuldoorong Art Exhibition (official opening 30 June)
**HEALTH CHECK REMINDER**

Don’t forget to contact our Medical Clinic at Forest Street for your free health check.

A health assessment is recommended every year for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

They ensure people are receiving the right healthcare, and encourage early detection, diagnosis and intervention for common and treatable conditions that cause morbidity and early mortality.

**NEW HEPATITIS C TREATMENT AVAILABLE AT BDAC**

— ONE PILL, ONCE A DAY CAN CURE HEPATITIS C — AND IT’S FREE!

BDAC is working with Bendigo Health to streamline our hepatitis C positive clients through the new treatment.

There is a 95 per cent cure rate when the tablet is taken at the right time once a day, for around 12 weeks.

There are far less side effects than old treatments and they are manageable.

The BDAC team can support you through treatment, and only in rare cases do people have to attend Bendigo Health. Treatment and consults can be done at our Forest Street site.

Please make an appointment or come and speak to anyone in the clinical health team to find out more. You can also be tested for hepatitis C if you think you may have the virus, or if you are at risk of contracting hepatitis C. All attendances and consults at the BDAC Medical Clinic are strictly confidential.

**VICTORIA LEGAL AID’S RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**

Since Victoria Legal Aid launched its Reconciliation Action Plan a year ago, its commitment to do more and do better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients is stronger than ever.

Indigenous people are significantly more likely than non-Indigenous people to face imprisonment and child removal by state authorities.

The plan sets out a way forward for the organisation to play its part in responding to justice issues impacting Aboriginal people.

BDAC CEO Raylene Harradine recently attended the Loddon Campaspe Regional Victorian Legal Aid office in Hargreaves Street to unveil a plaque acknowledging the Dja Dja Wurrung.
STRONG TURNOUT FOR COMMUNITY BBQ

Almost 70 people turned out for a BDAC community barbecue at White Hills in April.

With the weather against us, we were unsure of how many people would attend, so it was wonderful to see so many people there, including a number of our stakeholders and health providers from the early-years sector.

The community enjoyed lunch together and networking with service providers in a relaxed environment, while the kids enjoyed some colouring activities, splashing in puddles and a kick of the footy.

MEN'S SHED IN THE MAKING

As work on our Indigenous Men's Shed nears completion, a group of local men have begun to make plans for the space.

About 25 men got together for a barbecue at Lake Neanger in Eaglehawk on 13 April to discuss the build and future activities for the Men's Shed. The shed is being constructed as part of the health and community centre development at Prouses Road.

Once a permit is received from the City of Greater Bendigo, the installation of the shed will begin.

STAFF NEWS

Farewell Dr Alfy Ordukaya

We recently said goodbye to Dr Alfy Ordukaya, one of the GPs at our Forest Street medical clinic. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours. A full time GP will commence in August.

Welcome new staff

We welcome Hayley Mansfield, Rachel O'Dowd and Pauline Ugle to BDAC.

BDAC baby

Our Corporate Services General Manager Dallas Widdicombe and his wife Jess welcomed a healthy baby boy named Mac Edmund Widdicombe into the world on 21 May 2016. Congratulations to you both!

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN AVAILABLE

The City of Greater Bendigo has released a draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for community consultation and comment.

The RAP is a three-year business plan outlining what an organisation can do within its sphere of influence to contribute to reconciliation. It is based around three key areas of action - relationships, respect and opportunities. BDAC is part of the Reconciliation Action Plan Community Reference Group, which was established in 2015 to work on the plan.

The group also includes participants from:
- City of Greater Bendigo
- Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
- Local community organisations.

BDAC is looking forward to the RAP being implemented in the community as it will assist with building partnerships and increasing employment for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

For more information and to read the draft plan, visit the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation page on the CoGB website: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au.

BDAC IN THE COMMUNITY

ELDERS GET TOGETHER

A group of local Elders visited Shepparton in May to spend a day at the Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative Elder Facility.

BDAC’s Planned Activity Group (PAG) visits the region a few times a year to see the Rumbalara Elders and do some activities together. In the past they have made clay turtles for a Shepparton gallery, and have recently been making stars for the One Million Stars to End Violence project.

PAG aims to help Aboriginal elders stay connected to community, country and culture through social interaction and cultural activities.

STAFF NEWS

Farewell Dr Alfy Ordukaya

We recently said goodbye to Dr Alfy Ordukaya, one of the GPs at our Forest Street medical clinic. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours. A full time GP will commence in August.

Welcome new staff

We welcome Hayley Mansfield, Rachel O’Dowd and Pauline Ugle to BDAC.

BDAC baby

Our Corporate Services General Manager Dallas Widdicombe and his wife Jess welcomed a healthy baby boy named Mac Edmund Widdicombe into the world on 21 May 2016. Congratulations to you both!
WHAT’S COMING UP

NAIDOC EVENTS:
City of Greater Bendigo flag raising/Reconciliation Action Plan launch
4 July, 10am–12pm
BDAC flag raising ceremony, BBQ and open day
4 July, 12pm-1pm
BDAC Children’s Day
6 July, 10am-3pm
La Trobe Koori Market
7 July
St John of God Community Lunch
8 July, 11am-12pm
BDAC NAIDOC Dinner
15 July, 6pm
Knuldoorong Art Exhibition
29 June–13 July (official opening 30 June)

Statewide Koori Football and Netball Carnival
15–16 October

SIGN UP FOR E-NEWS

The Koori Grapevine is distributed quarterly in hardcopy and via email.

To receive the email edition, you can subscribe by visiting the BDAC website or emailing us at grapevine@bdac.com.au.

BDAC FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

HOME BASE CARE PROGRAM:

Aboriginal Kinship Program & Case Contracting
Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making Program
Cultural Support Planning
Koori Placement & Support
Bringing Them Home
Therapeutic Counselling
Leaving Care Program
Aged & Disability

FAMILY HARMONY

Family support
Children Resource program
Justice

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY...

To include items in the BDAC newsletter, please contact us at:
grapevine@bdac.com.au
Or call reception on 5442 4947

CONTACT US

13–15 Forest Street, Bendigo VIC 3550
P 03 5442 4947
F 03 5442 4941
E reception@bdac.com.au

OPENING HOURS

Monday–Thursday: 9am–5pm
Friday: 9am–4pm

www.bdac.com.au