



MDAS
MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES

Koori NEWS

NOVEMBER 2020



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**
8-15 NOV 2020



MALLEE ARTISTS CAPTURE NAIDOC THEME

FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR, THE WORKS OF TWO LOCAL MALLEE ARTISTS WILL CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF THE NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS IN ARTWORKS ON OUR VERY OWN NAIDOC GARMENTS.

It was the first time Kedeasha Jackson had entered an artwork in a competition – but her design will now be everywhere during NAIDOC week!

“I don’t really do much painting. I have done drawing in a visual diary just for my personal enjoyment, but when I got an I-Pad a few months ago, and I learnt to draw with it, that all changed,” Kedeasha said.

“I downloaded an app called Pro Create and started doing custom drawings and drawings of loved ones and found I enjoyed it and was getting better at it. It’s very relaxing and it’s a great thing for others to try.”

Runner-up in the competition was Robinvale artist and MDAS Alcohol and Other Drugs worker, Matthew Chilly with an oil painting representing his connections to his tribal heritage.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE ART:

KEDEASHA JACKSON: “PAST-PRESENT-FUTURE”

It represents me going through life as a woman, being a mother and becoming the person who I want to be. The left represents my past and how much I’ve changed going through life while losing friends and family. All the pain, tears and memories that are engraved in my heart made me who I am today as a woman and a mother. The right represents that I have goals and a life to conquer for me and my daughter. That no matter where I go or what I’m going through, I will always have my Family.

MATTHEW CHILLY:

It shows connection to bloodline, my tribal heritage and ties to the land. As I am a young Multi-Clan Nations descendant of the Wamba-Wamba, Wiradjuri, Madi-Madi, Yorta-Yorta, Wadi-Wadi and Barapa-Barapa tribes – on my Mother’s side. I am also a South Sea’s descendant of Vanuatu, the Gabbi-Gabbi tribe from Queensland on my Father’s side. This artwork piece also depicts the ‘Dreaming’ and the ‘Creation’, the time before our Ancestors and what they did for us, and how they paved the way so that we can live the life we have and be who we are today. It’s thanks to my Ancestor’s that I am a proud Aboriginal, Multi-Clans Nations man, who is proud of who he is and where he comes from. I hope this artwork piece resonates with others and relates to them in their own way.



Generations of vibrant, healthy and strong Aboriginal communities

GROWING OUR OWN SUCCESS

AT MDAS WE'RE COMMITTED TO GROWING OUR OWN SUCCESS...THAT MEANS SUPPORTING OUR STAFF, EMERGING LEADERS AND COMMUNITY TO REACH FOR PERSONAL GOALS - AND IN THE PROCESS, HELPING US ACHIEVE THINGS TOGETHER.

Good staff aren't always easy to find. So once when we find people committed and passionate about supporting mob, we invest in them through further training, work experience and opportunities to upskill. It supports their future opportunities - but it also is an investment in our shared future.

MDAS currently has more than 100 staff studying nationally-accredited training from Certificate level to Master's degree. We also support ongoing traineeships across MDAS, which are a great point of entry to work and a career.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

We have some real talent within MDAS and our mobs. Investing in our staff and supporting people as they strive to become future leaders is great for the whole community. So, if you need a bit of help or advice about your career plans, chat to your manager or our Human Resources team and see what we can do together.



GEORGINA JOHNSON

When she joined MDAS in 2017, Georgina Johnson never imagined she would one day be playing an integral role in the health of the Swan Hill and Kerang community. Georgie is now 23, and started off as a part-time receptionist. In January last year she was offered a role as a chronic care outreach worker - and asked to consider Aboriginal Health Worker training. Georgie is now close to completing her training, and since August has excelled in the role of Aboriginal Health Worker. Georgie's experience is a good example of how MDAS and VACCHO's training team have worked together to create new employment opportunities for local young people. Georgie loves her position, and it shows - she's passionate about giving back to the community where she grew up.



NEED A MASK?

Masks are now compulsory - not scarves, not bandannas. So if you need a mask, get in touch with us at MDAS. We have disposable masks available, as well as reusable ones. (Pictured: Toni, Hack and Leonie from our MDAS Kerang team)



JOIN IN...AT NAIDOC FLAG RAISING CEREMONIES

DUE TO COVID-19 NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS WILL BE LIMITED THIS YEAR.

Please note the following times for flag raising ceremonies at our MDAS sites.

Please ensure you are wearing a mask and keep social distance (1.5 metres) between yourself and other people.

NAIDOC 2020 THEME ALWAYS WAS, ALWAYS WILL BE.

Always Was, Always Will Be recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country.

This country was criss-crossed by generations of brilliant Nations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.

Australia has the world's oldest oral stories. The First Peoples engraved the world's first maps, made the earliest paintings of ceremony and invented unique technologies. We built and engineered structures - structures on Earth - predating well-known sites such as the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge.

The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples.

For us, this nation's story began at the dawn of time.

NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country - a history which dates back thousands of generations.



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MILDURA

10 am November 9
MDAS Health Orange Avenue
(Mildura Rural City Council to follow)

SWAN HILL

10 am November 9
MDAS Nyah Road

KERANG

10 am November 9
Gannawarra Shire Council
(MDAS to follow)

ROBINVALE

10 am November 9
Caix Square

Around MDAS



So exciting to see our groups, programs and services slowly returning to what will be our "COVID-normal" for quite a while. Our Mildura Koori Youth Night Patrol bus is back out and about on Friday and Saturday nights, as well as doing pick ups and drop offs for our youth programs, which are (slowly) starting again in both Mildura and Swan Hill. Our youth teams have stayed connected with many of our young ones during COVID – but please get in touch if you would like to get involved in our fun.

CONGRATULATIONS AUNTY GLENDA



So proud of our MDAS SEWB Bringing Them Home worker at Swan Hill Aunty Glenda Nicholls. Glenda is the recipient of the 2020 Hutchinson Indigenous Fellowship. Established by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust in memory of Mr Darvell Martin Hutchinson, former Chair of the Trust, the fellowship supports the artistic practice of an Indigenous artist based in Victoria. Awarded annually and valued at \$45,000, it includes a one-year residency at the University of Melbourne. Aunty Glenda is a Waddi Waddi, Ngarrindjeri and Yorta Yorta artist, a master weaver whose stories and works are inspired by family, community and the coronavirus pandemic. Glenda is also working on a major commission, Miwi Milloo (Good spirit of the Murray River) 2020 as part of the National Gallery of Victoria's (NGV) Triennial exhibition opening in December.

OUR SERVICES

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

CARE AND CULTURE

Aboriginal Children Specialist Advice Support Service (ACSASS)

Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making (AFLDM)

Cultural Support Planning (CSP)

Kinship Care

Home Based Care (Foster Care)

Therapeutic Residential Care

Therapeutic Residential Case Management

First Supports

Kinship Reunification

FAMILY AND YOUTH

Family Services

Integrated family services

Stronger Families

Family Preservation

YOUTH SERVICES

Early School Leavers

Youth Support Program

Youth Justice

Koori Connect

Koori Night Patrol

Youth Justice Robinvale

HOUSING SUPPORT

Crisis Support

Aboriginal tenants at risk of eviction

Transitional support

AOD Robinvale

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Meminar Ngangg Gimba – Refuge

Meminar Ngangg Gimba – Outreach (Mildura/ Robinvale/ Swan Hill/ Kerang)

Meminar Ngangg Gimba – Cultural Healing Group Work

Men's Family Violence Case Management

Men's Family Violence Cultural Behaviour Change Group Work

Men's Family Violence Cultural Healing Group Work

Adolescent Family Violence Case Management

Adolescent Family Violence Culture Healing Group Work

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Koori Women's Diversion (Mildura)

Mental Health Demonstration Project (Mildura)

Alcohol and other Drugs Treatment Service

(Mildura Swan Hill/ Kerang Robinvale)

Bringing them Home (Mildura Swan Hill/ Kerang Robinvale)

Aboriginal Communities Gambling Awareness program (Mildura)

Family Wellbeing program

(Mildura Swan Hill/ Kerang Robinvale)

Local Justice Worker program

(Mildura) (Swan Hill Under Family services)

Dual Diagnosis Model of Care

(Mildura Youth 12 - 25) (Swan Hill Adult 16 - 65)

SEWB Mental Health Access

(Swan Hill)

Clinical & Therapeutic Mental Health (Swan Hill)

Mental Health Community Support Service (Swan Hill & Mildura)

HEALTH

GP

Nurse

Aboriginal Health Workers

Outreach Workers

Chronic Disease Management

Maternal Child Health

Nurse Health Checks

Transport

SPECIALIST SERVICES

Drug And Alcohol Worker

Psychologist

Maternal And Child Health Nurse

Podiatrist

Cardiologist

Urologist

Paediatrician

Optometrist

Cardiologist

Audiologist

Physiotherapist

Personal Trainers

Road to deadly Health

Deadly choices (school programs)

MDAS Health program

Nutrition & Public Health Advisor

AGED AND DISABILITY

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)

Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP)

CLINICS

Well Women's Clinic

Immunisation Clinic

TACKLING SMOKING AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES SERVICES

Quit Smoking Support

EARLY YEARS

Maternity Services (Swan Hill & Mildura)

Maternal and Child Health (Swan Hill & Mildura)

In Home Support program (Swan Hill & Mildura)

Cradle to Kinder (Swan Hill & Mildura)

Koori Supported playgroups (Swan Hill & Mildura)

Koori Preschool Assistant program (Mildura)

HIPPY (Home Interactive Program for Parents and Youngsters)(Mildura)

Connected Beginnings (Mildura)

OPENING HOURS

Mon - Thur 9am - 5pm

Friday 9am - 4pm

MILDURA

120 Madden Avenue

5018 4100

ROBINVALE

77 Perrin Street

5026 1848

SWAN HILL

70 Nyah Road

5032 8600

KERANG

9 Nolan Street

5450 3019

TO HAVE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE MDAS NEWSLETTER

Please contact Terry or Jacinta Gange, NewsAlert PR Mildura

0498 490 672 or email hello@newsalertpr.com.au

www.mdas.org.au