

JULY 2025

GUNIDA GUNYAH
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

COMMUNITY HUB

MY GUNYAH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY IMPACT

66 FAMILIES SUPPORTED WITH FOOD HAMPERS
2030 PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH SUPPORT

HUB:
167-169
CONADILLY
STREET,
GUNNEDAH

02 6742 7038

WWW.GGACHUB.COM.AU

JULY RECAP

July was a month full of celebration, connection, and community spirit at Gunida Gunyah. From powerful NAIDOC Week events to hands-on support for families, our team was everywhere this month – yarning, sharing culture, and providing practical help where it's needed most.

We joined schools, early learning centres, and community groups across the region to mark 50 years of NAIDOC, with our mascots Yippee the Yowie and Pippee the Platypus spreading smiles wherever they went. We danced, shared stories, painted with ochre, and connected with hundreds of community members from Gunnedah to Walhallow and Quirindi.

Our Hub was buzzing with events like the Curry Cook-Off and the Walkabout Barber Day, bringing mob together for good food, fresh cuts, resources, and laughter. We also partnered with Coles for a deadly in-store NAIDOC celebration and continued delivering food hampers, with the help of the amazing STAR Foundation girls from Gunnedah High.

Behind the scenes, our programs continued to make a real difference – from helping families find safe housing to supporting people on their journey back to stability. July reminded us that strong culture and strong community go hand in hand – and we're proud to walk alongside mob every step of the way.

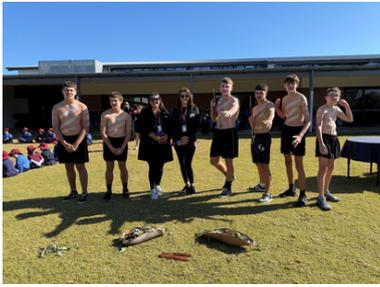


CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF JODIE AT GUNYAH!

Jodie has been part of the Gunida Gunyah family for a decade now - and what an incredible journey it's been! Starting out in data entry, then moving through accounts payable and finance, Jodie has grown into an integral member of our operational team.

Today, she proudly serves as our HR Officer and is about to take the next step in her career by commencing a Diploma of Human Resources.

Well done, Jodie, on this amazing milestone and all your achievements so far. We're so proud of you and look forward to see what the future brings.



NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS - ST XAVIER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday July 2nd, Kelly and Steph had the pleasure of attending the NAIDOC Assembly at St Xavier's Primary School, with Steph opening the event with a beautiful Welcome to Country. Students from St Xavier's shared the meaning and importance of NAIDOC Week, raised the flags with pride, and took part in a cake cutting to mark the occasion.

We also enjoyed a powerful smoking ceremony and cultural dance performance by students from Gunnedah High School – deadly work mob!

A big thank you to St Xavier's for inviting Gunida Gunyah to be part of your celebrations and for the lovely gift. We're always proud to support strong connections to culture, community and Country.



NAIDOC WEEK CORROBOREE

On Thursday 3rd July, Brett and Steph proudly represented Gunida Gunyah at the Guuma-Li Corroboree, hosted by the NAIDOC Week Committee.

Brett did an incredible job as MC for the evening, guiding the night with pride and respect. Steph attended in her role as a GGAC Board Member, supporting the celebration of culture, community, and connection.

The event welcomed special guests Aunty Jean Hands, Uncle Charles Lynch, and Councillor Rob Hooke, and featured deadly performances from Muggera Cultural Enterprise, Bujja Buuja Dance Group, and Gunnedah's very own Deadly Dance Academy.

This year we also marked a powerful milestone —50 years of NAIDOC. The theme The Next Generation – Strength, Vision & Legacy reminds us of how far we've come and the importance of investing in our future leaders. Shoutout to YMG for the solid feeds—always appreciated!



GGAC PARTNER WITH THE GDH HIGH SCHOOL STAR FOUNDATION

Huge shoutout to the amazing STAR Foundation girls from Gunnedah High School! These deadly young women continue to support Gunida Gunyah by helping deliver food hampers to our local community and we're so grateful for their energy, kindness, and commitment!

If you're needing support with food hampers during that time, pop in and see us at the Hub.

Thank you to STAR Foundation and the Gunnedah High crew for always showing up for community.



NAIDOC UNITY COMMUNITY FUN DAY

The Marrabaa Family Safety team had a deadly time at the NAIDOC Unity Community Fun Day on Sunday 6th July! We yarned with community about domestic and family violence (DFSV), shared info on the support programs currently running at the Hub and handed out free slushies to keep everyone hydrated. We were lucky to have a sunny day (with just a little breeze at the end) and felt so proud to be out connecting with community. Thank you to everyone who came over for a chat – it was beautiful to see so many faces and strong spirits.



NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS - GDH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Gunida Gunyah was privileged to attend the Flag Raising and Community Welcome Ceremony at Gunnedah Public School on Wednesday 2nd July.

It was deadly to see the students getting involved in song, dance, and celebration. The weather was chilly, but the sun made a quick appearance during the smoking ceremony before we moved into the warmth of the hall.

We didn't get to stay for lunch (though it sounded great!), but we did get to enjoy some awesome cake. And we can't forget the goats - cute as!

Out of respect for student privacy, we didn't take any photos of the kids, but we've shared a few snaps from around the grounds.

Big thanks to Gunnedah Public for welcoming us and creating space to celebrate culture, community, and connection.



NAIDOC WEEK FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AT GUNNEDAH HOSPITAL

The Marrabaa Family Safety Project team proudly represented Gunida Gunyah at the NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony held at Gunnedah District Hospital. The event featured a deadly cultural performance by The Deadly Dance Academy, and a BBQ lunch was generously provided by TAMS Gunnedah. It was also wonderful to see the ongoing upgrades taking place at the hospital. Strengthening our health system and services means strengthening our community and families. We look forward to building even stronger connections with local health services.



NAIDOC WEEK AT GOODSTART GUNNEDAH

Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation had a deadly time visiting Goodstart Gunnedah as part of their NAIDOC Week celebrations!

The children were surprised with a visit from our special friend, Pippee the Platypus, who had everyone up and moving with the Wombat Wobble Dance. The kids even sang Waltzing Matilda for Pippee.

Our staff also had a yarn with the children about ochre where it comes from and how it's been used for generations to paint faces in culture and celebration. The kids had their faces painted with ochre before giving big thanks to our team and Pippee.

Thank you to the wonderful staff and children at Goodstart for having us!



QUIRINDI NAIDOC FUN DAY

Our NPA team proudly represented Gunida Gunyah at Quirindi's annual NAIDOC Funday, joining in the celebrations of 50 years of NAIDOC!

We set up a fun space with Indigenous sand art and colouring-in activities that the kids absolutely loved. It was also a great chance to yarn with community members and share information about the programs and supports we offer at Gunida Gunyah.

Big thanks to everyone who stopped by and Happy NAIDOC to all!



NAIDOC 2025 - GUNNEDAH HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT TOUR

Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation was proud to attend the NAIDOC Week celebration at the Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment site on Wednesday 9th July.

We were warmly welcomed by local Gamilaraay man and project team member, Lachlan Falconer-Adams, before being taken on a guided tour of the impressive new hospital development. We had the opportunity to walk through the brand new Emergency Department, Maternity Unit, Birthing Room and Courtyard, Palliative Care Room, and the stunning new Central Courtyard. Following the tour, we enjoyed a lovely morning tea and had the privilege of yarning with local artist Ronnie Long, whose powerful artwork will soon become a steel mural featured on the ceiling of the Emergency Department entry an incredible contribution to a healing space.

Thank you to everyone involved for including us in this important celebration of culture, community, and progress.



NETWORKING WITH ECAV

On Wednesday 9th July, Jane & Steph caught up with Dallas and his team from ECAV (Education Centre Against Violence) while they were in town networking with local services. It was great to meet their team, share knowledge, and strengthen partnerships that support safer communities.



NAIDOC FUN AT PUGGLES

As part of this year's NAIDOC celebrations, the Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation team had the joy of visiting the little legends at Puggles Gunnedah!

Our staff shared some beautiful stories with the children before a surprise visit from our special friend, Pippee the Platypus. Pippee brought big smiles, happy dances, and lots of high fives all around!

The kids had a deadly time getting their faces painted with ochre and even had a go painting their teacher's face too! We finished the visit with laughs, hugs, and a heartfelt goodbye to Pippee and the GGAC team.

Thank you to the wonderful staff and children at Puggles for having us we loved celebrating NAIDOC Week with you all.



KEVIN ANDERSON VISITS GUNIDA GUNYAH

Tuesday 15th July was a chilly one, but that didn't stop Kevin Anderson from dropping by to visit Gunida Gunyah. Kevin was warmly welcomed and given a tour of Lilly Pilly Place, our safe refuge for women and children escaping domestic and family violence. He also visited our Community Hub in the heart of Gunnedah's CBD, where he met some of our amazing staff working on the ground.

It was a great opportunity to show Kevin the hard work that has gone into making Gunida Gunyah what it is today and to talk him through the wide range of programs and services we now offer.

Thanks for visiting, Kevin – we're proud to share the journey with you.



NAIDOC AT COLES GUNNEDAH

A massive shout out to Coles for putting on such a deadly NAIDOC celebration on Thursday 10th July! The Gunida Gunyah team was absolutely thrilled to be part of it, and we couldn't wipe the smiles off our faces. We were so excited to be there, soaking up the energy, connecting with community, and sharing in the spirit of NAIDOC.

Steph opened the event beautifully with a heartfelt Welcome to Country, setting the tone for a day full of pride, culture, and community. The Coles crew turned it on with a free sausage sizzle that had everyone lining up for a feed, and Yippee the Yowie absolutely stole the show! The kids (and big kids) were buzzing, and so were we.

We're incredibly grateful for Coles' ongoing support through the Second Bite program. Their food donations allow us to create hampers for mob and community doing it tough and help us serve up our free Friday cook-ups at the Hub each week. It's partnerships like this that truly make a difference.

Gunida Gunyah is proud, pumped, and full of gratitude. Thank you, Coles, for celebrating NAIDOC with us and backing our community all year round. Let's keep the good stuff going!



NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS AT GUNNEDAH PRESCHOOL

Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation had the absolute pleasure of visiting Gunnedah Pre-School as part of their NAIDOC celebrations! Our cheeky friends Pippee the Platypus and Yippee the Yowie came along to say a big hello to all the little ones. There were big smiles, happy dances, and lots of laughter as the children danced with their new friends and had their faces painted with ochre. The highlight? The kids singing a beautiful version of "Three Little Birds" to Pippee and Yippee before waving goodbye.

Thank you to the amazing staff and kids at Gunnedah Pre-School for having us - we had the best time!



NAIDOC WEEK CURRY COOK OFF AT THE HUB

What a day we had on Friday 11th July – we were in curry heaven at the Hub!

So many deadly dishes filled the room, and in the end we had 14 slow cookers of curry deliciousness. Every single one was a winner in our eyes, thank you to everyone who entered! It was the best feed ever – a buffet of curry and rice that left no one disappointed. Honestly, not a single bad dish in sight, and voting was tough! Curry Cook Off Winners: Roberts Family – Curry Beef Meatballs, Les Field – Chicken Curry, Jess Irwin – Chicken Curry. The Meatballs also took out the Coles Special Award! Big thanks to Coles for coming along today, for your generous prize donations, and for sharing the day with us—it was great having you on board.

Our online Kahoot quiz had a spicy theme too (yep – Curry) and our clever crowd took on the challenge. Kahoot Winners: Donny Bush, Pjay Bell and Jane Bender.

Thanks everyone for such an amazing, community-filled day!

We're already thinking... could a Dessert & Sweets Cook-Off be next? What do you reckon?



We've got some exciting news from Gunida Gunyah...

Little Brydon would like to introduce you to the newest (and fluffiest) member of our team — Kippee the Koala!



YIPPEE THE YOWIE VISITS ALKIRA

Tuesday 8th July was one for the memory books! Our Gunida Gunyah team paid a special visit to Alkira, and we brought along a surprise guest... Yippee the Yowie!

The residents were absolutely thrilled to meet Yippee. Some couldn't believe how big he was, and others couldn't wait to run up and give his soft, furry coat a feel. Smiles were everywhere—and of course, there were lots of happy snaps with both residents and staff getting in on the action.

After Yippee headed home, we settled in for a creative afternoon of arts and crafts. While a few residents weren't sure where to start, we brought some artwork from the Gunyah office to help spark inspiration. The Alkira staff found some boomerangs and goannas to trace and paint, and before long the whole room was filled with colour, conversation, and connection.

A big thank you to Alkira for having us it was a deadly day of sharing stories, laughter, and creativity. We can't wait to visit again soon!



NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS AT CURLEWIS PUBLIC SCHOOL

On Monday, 22nd July, the Marrabaa Family Safety Team proudly attended the NAIDOC Week Opening Ceremony at Curlewis Public School on behalf of Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation.

The event was a beautiful celebration of culture and community, with Gunnedah High School students opening the ceremony with powerful cultural dances. The morning concluded with a moving flag-raising ceremony, honouring the strength, history, and future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We thank Curlewis Public School for the warm welcome and for providing a space where culture and connection continue to grow strong.



GUNIDA GUNYAH AT WALHALLOW NAIDOC - WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 2025.

What an incredible day celebrating culture, connection, and community at Walhallow NAIDOC 2025!

The Gunida Gunyah team had an absolute ball being part of the celebrations and spending the day with mob.

The day kicked things off with the kids' races and bacon and egg rolls for breakfast, while the team set up the marquee, unpacked vehicles, got the slushie machine going, and started handing out over 50 hampers packed with food, toiletries, and essentials donated by Gunida Gunyah.

Our slushies were a hit - especially with the kids and gave us a great opportunity to yarn and connect with families. We also supported housing tenants who used the day to check in with housing officers about repairs and tenancy needs.

Yippee the Yowie and Pippee the Platypus were out and about spreading smiles and posing for photos with the community. It was beautiful to see how much joy our mascots brought to the day.

We spent time networking with other services and handing out flyers, connecting with agencies like the Benevolent Society, Headspace, Service NSW, Carers Gateway, TAFE, Centacare, and Walhallow Health. Service NSW even had their portable van on site with water and fresh fruit for the community.

Walhallow Health ran fun raffles with Healthy Choices shirts up for grabs, and SORA kept the little ones busy with colouring-in, keyrings, and drink bottles. Lunch was generously provided by Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation featuring Red Rooster chicken, ham, a variety of fresh salads, and cake.

The whole day was filled with yarns, laughter, and strong community spirit. It's always a privilege to be welcomed into community spaces and walk alongside mob during NAIDOC Week.

Thank you Walhallow for having us—we're already looking forward to next year!



CARE & CONNECT DAY - WALKABOUT BARBER - FRIDAY 25TH JULY 2025.

Fresh cuts, big yarns, and community connection – the Hub was buzzing on 25 July when the Walkabout Barber crew pulled in!

Mob came through for deadly haircuts, relaxing waxing, a healing trauma workshop, and a solid BBQ feed. Even Yippee the Yowie got himself a fresh trim! Brian stopped by for a yarn and helped keep spirits high throughout the day.

A range of local service providers set up stalls, offering free resources, referrals, and practical info on everything from housing and health to wellbeing and family support. It was a great chance for community members to have a yarn, ask questions, and build stronger connections with services in a safe, relaxed environment. We wrapped up with a fun and interactive Kahoot quiz, plenty of laughs, and some great prizes.

It was a powerful day of bringing mob together, sharing knowledge, and strengthening relationships between community, staff, and local support services.



FROM ROCK BOTTOM TO A FRESH START

From Christopher Watson

"I came to Gunnedah with nothing but the clothes on my back, no home, no support, just a hope that things could get better."

"The programs staff at Gunida Gunyah supported me to get Temporary accommodation and supported me through some of the hardest moments of my life."

"Now, I can say I'm back on my feet and have secured my own tenancy."

"I'll always be grateful for the help I received from the programs staff."

"I recommend the Gunida Gunyah team to anyone as they believed in me when I couldn't believe in myself."



A FRESH START: ONE WOMAN'S JOURNEY TO SAFETY AND STABILITY

Shared by the Wuu-rii Banma-li Team

One of our recent clients was referred to the Wuu-rii Banma-li (WBL) team by NPA after receiving support for domestic and family violence and assistance with court matters. At the time, she was staying with her two young children but was facing homelessness as the home environment was no longer suitable.

With safety and stability in mind, she made the courageous decision to seek a place of her own.

Our team supported her in applying for the Start Safely program, which will subsidise her rent for the next 18 months. We also helped her access Victims Services brokerage to secure counselling support for her children and financial assistance to help establish her new home.

She later applied for emergency accommodation through Link2Home and was approved to stay in a temporary unit at GGAC. Throughout this period, she remained highly motivated—submitting multiple housing applications to local real estate agencies.

Her persistence paid off when she secured a private rental unit close to town. We assisted with a rent bond loan and two weeks rent in advance, and GGAC helped move her belongings into the new property.

She is now thriving, regaining her confidence, and feeling proud of her achievements. She regularly visits the Hub with her children, joining in on Friday cook-ups and games of Kahoot.

We're proud to have supported her journey toward safety, independence, and healing.

Brothers Circle After Hours

Strong Men. Strong Families. Strong Culture.

Starting Thursday 28th August 2025

5pm - 7pm

**Back of the Gunida Gunyah Community Hub
FREE Spit Roast or BBQ, Campfire Yarns, Music,
Culture, Connection.**

Contact (02) 6742 7038 to find out more info



Positions Vacant - Apply today!

Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation is seeking two dedicated full-time team members to join our justice support program, working across Narrabri and Gunnedah.

We are looking for motivated, community-minded individuals who are practical, respectful, and passionate about supporting Aboriginal people and families. Formal qualifications are not essential—what matters most is your ability to build strong relationships, show initiative, and deliver meaningful, hands-on support.

The ideal candidates will:

- ✓ Understand the barriers and challenges faced by individuals and families
- ✓ Have a basic understanding of local services and support systems
- ✓ Be confident working alongside other organisations to improve outcomes for clients
- ✓ Actively build networks and partnerships that create better opportunities for families
- ✓ Build trust and form strong, respectful relationships with the people they support
- ✓ Provide practical, responsive, and culturally safe assistance
- ✓ Be able to work independently, take initiative, and fulfil the duties of the role without requiring step-by-step direction
- ✓ Be confident with basic technology—email, case notes, and using a computer
- ✓ Be willing and able to travel between Gunnedah and Narrabri as part of the role

In this role, you will provide intensive, long-term support to Aboriginal individuals and families involved in the justice system.

You will work closely with each family for up to 12 months, helping them navigate challenges and take steps toward a stronger, safer future.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

We also welcome applicants with cultural knowledge, lived experience, and a strong commitment to community.

Applications will remain open until suitable candidates are identified.

A Working with Children Check, Police Check, Driver's License, and First Aid Certificate (or willingness to obtain one) are required.

To apply or find out more, contact us on (02) 6742 7038 or email admin@gunidagunyah.com.au



Get help to pay your energy bill



Are you experiencing short-term financial hardship, a crisis or emergency?

NSW Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) can help you pay your electricity and gas bills.

energy.nsw.gov.au/eapa



November 2024

Talk to us today about Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA)

EAPA helps people finding it hard to pay their electricity and/or gas bill because of short-term financial hardship, a crisis or emergency, such as:



loss of
income



unexpected
essential
costs



natural
disaster



received a
disconnection
notice

You may be eligible if all the following apply:

- ✓ you live in NSW
- ✓ you have an electricity or natural gas account for your home
- ✓ the bill is in your name
- ✓ you have not paid your most recent bill
- ✓ the bill you need help with is for an account that is still open
- ✓ you're experiencing a short-term financial hardship, crisis or emergency.

Check if you're eligible for EAPA and other rebates and find out how to apply:

Visit energy.nsw.gov.au/eapa

Call 13 77 88

Visit a Service NSW Centre

