



WELCOME TO THE FIFTH EDITION OF WAAGIR BANDIMAYI

Darkinyung language for Coast Messenger

Barang has continued to work with our six local Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to keep our community informed, to share information, give updates and keep all our community involved. Over the past two months, our staff and community members have celebrated NAIDOC Week with a range of events across the Central Coast.

We have been lucky enough to have attended events including a flag raising ceremony, the opening night for our local exhibition, *Black Lives Matter*, as well as an event honouring our very own Aunty Madeline McGrady and the amazing films and ongoing contributions she has made to the 2020 NAIDOC theme, *Always Was, Always Will Be*.

Barang means tomorrow. This is your information and we are your regional alliance. We invite you to share, participate and continue to be involved. Please feel free to contact us to share your thoughts and to give us feedback about what you would like to see included.

**I am Barang, You are Barang,
We are Barang Regional Alliance Central Coast.**

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Our newsletter name is Darkinyung language. Barang Regional Alliance has sought and received permission to use this as per cultural protocol.

Celebrating 25 Years of Health, Wellbeing and Care

Yerin Eleanor Duncan

Hearing Australia will be offering a clinic onsite at Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre.

Held every Friday, from 9:00 am to 2:30pm, the clinic is available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged between 0 and 6 years, and primary school students with hearing concerns.

Call 02 4351 1040 to book an appointment.

Yerin Eleanor Duncan is also offering community the chance to win an Indigenous jersey of your choice! Simply have your 715 Health Check completed at the Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre between 1 and 24 December 2020 to go in the draw for your chance to win.



Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation

The Glen

In February 2020, The Glen signed the federal funding agreement to start The Glen for Women and what a rollercoaster it has been since then!

After months of hard work, we are super proud to announce that The Glen for Women has officially received approval to build the first Aboriginal community controlled rehabilitation centre for women in NSW! We sincerely thank everyone who has gotten behind us, including the women's committee, community partners, neighbours and friends of The Glen. We will now focus on building the centre and turning it into a 'loving home'.



Proudly Dancing on Darkinjung Land

NAISDA Dance College

NAISDA's end of year performance – Wunda Yulagi: Spirit of the Dance – was a COVID-safe celebration of cultural and contemporary dance, physical theatre, Dancefilms, an exhibition, community presentations and school workshops. The week-long program, which ran from 30 November to 5 December, was guided by Elder and NAISDA Cultural Artist in Residence, Uncle Gavi Duncan, directed by NAISDA Head of Dance, Deon Hastie and performed by NAISDA Developing Artists.



Culturally Informed Pathways to Employment and Training

Bara Barang

This has been an exciting month for Bara Barang!

The team has been able to place 20 community members into employment recently. Our staff members Tammy and Wyatt have been using our Dream Builders career planning template to highlight preferred jobs and work with participants to secure the most desirable work with suitable employers.

We are also identifying vocational training needs and securing upcoming pre-employment programs in hospitality, warehousing, and cleaning for early 2021. Contact our Coordinator, Chris, if you are interested in participating.

We are also proud to announce that we have secured another five-year contract with the NSW Government to deliver the Driver Licensing Access Program. This means we can continue supporting our community in obtaining Learner and Provisional driving licenses until 2025.



Enjoy the summer, stay safe and check out our website www.barabarang.org.au for all our programs and online registration.

Community Connections

Gudjagang Ngara Li-Dhi (GND)

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

November saw Gudjagang Ngara Li-dhi host some amazing NAIDOC events at our Wyong Aboriginal Community space, funded by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

On Wednesday 11 November, we held the opening of our *Black Lives Matter* art exhibition, showcasing the photos and artworks of 11 of our local artists, and two spoken word performers. On Friday 13 November, the Community Legal Centre and Barang Regional Alliance used the space to host a screening of Aunty Maddy McGrady's film, *Always Was, Always Will Be*, which as we all know is where the 2020 NAIDOC theme came from.

It has been great to see the space really come into its own during NAIDOC as a place of connection for our community, a place to celebrate our

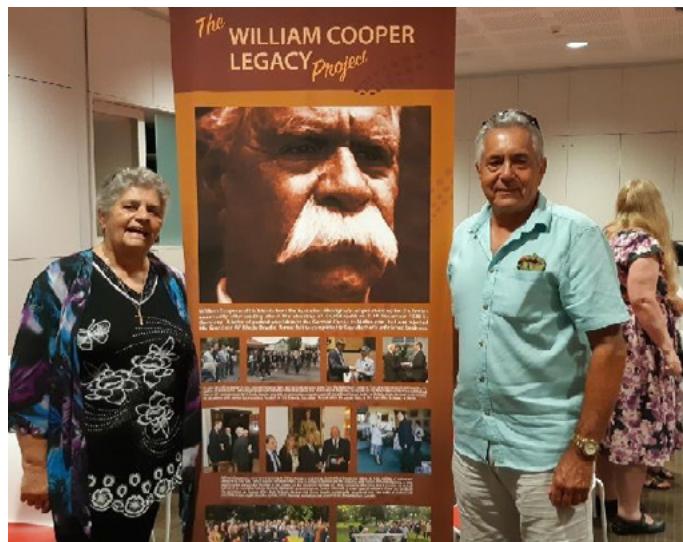


culture and a place offering a safe space for our families and young people.

December has also seen the first gathering of families for the *Young, Black and Ready for School Program*, part of our contribution to our little people transitioning to big school.

Connecting the Aboriginal Community on the Peninsula

Mingaletta



Mingaletta's Aunty Di O'Brien recently visited the Jewish museum in Sydney to celebrate the launch of the William Cooper legacy project.

Aunty Di is the great, great granddaughter of William Cooper – an Aboriginal rights activist who began the Australian Aboriginal League and campaigned actively for the rights of Jewish people during the Second World War, leading a march on the German Consulate in 1938.

Pictured here is Aunty Di with her cousin, James, who was also able to attend the launch.

ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR ENERGY OR WATER BILLS?



For one reason or another, you may be struggling to pay your energy or water bills. But there is help available! The Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW (EWON) is a free and independent complaints-handling service for all electricity and gas customers in NSW, and some water customers.

Bill overdue?

If your energy or water bill is overdue and/or you receive a reminder notice, you should contact your provider as soon as possible to discuss the best options for you. Let your provider know your current situation, and what you can afford, and ask them for more time to pay your bill.

Setup a payment plan

A payment plan is a formal arrangement between you and your provider. It can help you avoid late payment fees and avoid disconnection of your supply. Offer to pay what you can afford and don't be pressured into offering more.

Get on an affordability program

Affordability programs (sometimes referred to as hardship programs) are designed to protect you from disconnection and help you manage the arrears on your account by paying smaller amounts over a longer period. All energy companies must have an affordability program, so ask to be referred. They can also help by checking you are receiving government rebates and giving advice on how to reduce your bills.

Are you eligible for a rebate or EAPA vouchers?

You may be eligible for a rebate if you are a senior, on a low income, on life support or have other medical needs.

Energy Account Payment Assistant (EAPA) vouchers are available to help pay an electricity or gas bill in emergency situations. EAPA vouchers can be applied for through an organisation which will assess your situation. Find out more about these vouchers [here](#).

Most water providers also offer rebates, and Sydney Water and Hunter Water offer additional support for private tenants and owners.

How to get in touch with the Energy and Water Ombudsman

Free call: 1800 246 545 Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Free post: Reply Paid 86550 Sydney South NSW 1234

Interpreter: 131 450

TTY/Voice: 133 677

Online: ewon.com.au

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES

Bara Barang: office closed Wednesday 23 December 2020, reopening Monday 4 January 2021.

Gudjagang Ngara Li-dhi: office closed
Wednesday 23 December 2020,
reopening Monday 11 January 2021.

The Glen: office closed Wednesday 23 December 2020, reopening Tuesday 8 January 2021. First intake will be from Monday 11 January 2021.

NAISDA: office closed Wednesday 23 December 2020, reopening Monday 4 January 2021.

Mingaletta: office closed Tuesday 22 December 2020, reopening Tuesday 12 January 2021.

Yerin Eleanor Duncan: closed 12:00pm
Thursday 24 December 2020, reopening
Monday 11 January 2021.



GET IN TOUCH

Barang Regional Alliance

Hours of business

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

-  96 PACIFIC HWY, WYONG
 PO BOX 6, WYONG NSW 2259
 02 4351 3225
 INFO@BARANG.ORG.AU

BARANG.ORG.AU

-  @barangregionalalliance
 -  @AllianceBarang
 -  @barang_reqjonal_alliance

Opt In Organisations

Bara Barang

- (02) 4312 5133
contact@barabara.com.au

Gudiagang Ngara Ii-Dhi (GNI)

- @ admin@anl.org.au

Mingaletta

- 0432 222 794
admin@mingsalotto.com

NAISDA Dance College

-  (02) 4340 3100

@recept

-  (02) 4388 6360

intake@neglencer.com

-  (02) 4351 1040
 info@yerin.org.au