ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA

Mia Mia

Renter Newsletter

Edition II, June 2026

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Aboriginal Housing Victoria Renter Newsletter | Edition 2 2026

You're Invited! AHV's NAIDOC Family Day

Aborigines Advancement League | 10:30am-2:00pm | Wednesday 8 July 2026

Aboriginal Housing Victoria's NAIDOC Family Day is back for 2026! The 2026 NAIDOC theme, "50 Years of Deadly" honours the continuing voices, culture, and resilience of mob.

We're excited to invite you to a day filled with culture, community, and celebration on **Wednesday, 8 July, 2026, from 10:30 to 2:00pm at the Aborigines Advancement League.**

This year's event promises something for everyone. Enjoy live music and dance performances, explore arts and crafts, listen to powerful storytelling and enjoy a free BBQ. Families can look forward to a range of fun activities including: kids footy and softball clinics, face painting, boomerang throwing, exciting prizes, and an Elders area with tea and scones. We're also proud to feature a youth stage where young talent from our community will shine.

Keep an eye on AHV's social media and your letterbox for your official invitation.
We can't wait to see you there for a day of culture, connection, and community spirit.

Calling All Artists!

Are you an artist who would like to have your works exhibited and/or sold in our NAIDOC Family Day Art Exhibition? Arts, crafts, woodwork, jewellery and paintings are all welcome!

We also have a fund to help support AHV renters purchase supplies to create your masterpieces. To learn more or apply, email **community@ahvic.org.au** or visit **ahvic.org.au**

Annual Rent Review

The 2026 Annual Rent Review has begun. **Please submit all required income documents to the Rent Review Team as soon as possible.**

Questions? Email **rentreview@ahvic.org.au**

Community Lunch & Yarns

Come for a lunch and yarn with AHV senior staff about the issues that matter to you. Hear about AHV's long-term plans to improve housing and services, and share how we can better meet your needs.

Upcoming dates and locations will be shared soon via the AHV website and social media.

For more information or to suggest a yarn near you, email **community@ahvic.org.au**

Property Condition Assessments

AHV has engaged an independent provider, SPM, to carry out Property Condition Assessments (PCA) across a large portion of our properties.

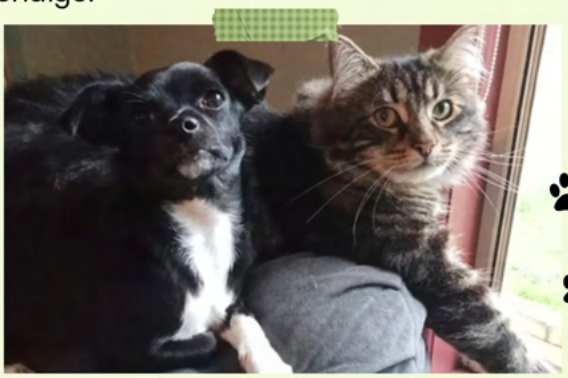
A PCA is not a rental inspection.

It is a professional review of the building's condition to help us plan for future maintenance and upgrades. Assessors will briefly check the condition of key areas (kitchens, bathrooms, roofing and flooring) and may take photos.

SPM will contact renters via SMS from +61 457 058 716 to book in a date and time for the Property Condition Assessment.

Pet Photography Competition

Congratulations to our winners, best friends Mittens (Tabby) and Coco (Chihuahua) from Bendigo.



Mittens is a proud little protector (and occasional hunter), while Coco loves walks and her toys. The pair sleep side by side each night in their bunk bed; proof that cats and dogs can pawfect pals.

Thank you to everyone who entered, you can admire all the entries via AHV social media.

AHV SMS Service

Did you know you can text AHV on **0439 500 176**. And, any texts received from this number are from the AHV team. Save this number today!

You can:

- Receive verification codes for the Renter Portal
- Text '**BAL**' to receive your current rent account balance
- Text '**FIX**' to receive a link to submit a maintenance request
- Text '**PORTAL**' to receive a link to the Renter Portal

Please note, only the mobile number associated with the head renter of a property can access these features. Standard text rates apply.

Share your favourite recipe and WIN!

Do you have a favourite recipe to warm you up and put a smile on your face on those cold winter days? Send us a recipe and photo of your dish by the end of June to **community@ahvic.org.au.**

Prize winners will receive a voucher. We'll publish the winner recipe in the next Mia Mia and across AHV social media to celebrate.

Wominjeka, Brett!

We're pleased to welcome Brett West as AHV's inaugural Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Brett is a proud Yamatji man from Gutharraguda (now known as Shark Bay) on the northern central coast of Western Australia and is a Malgana Traditional Owner with bloodlines from northern Western Australia through to the Torres Strait.

Brett brings over 30 years of leadership experience across the Australian Defence Force and the Victorian public sector to AHV. His work has focused on strengthening outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, building workforce capacity and capability, and working closely with community.

Brett shares, **"I'm honoured to be trusted with this inaugural Deputy CEO role that reflects AHV's ongoing growth and commitment to delivering meaningful, self-determined outcomes for Victorian Aboriginal communities. I feel that this is a pivotal time for change for Victorian Aboriginal people and I'm extremely excited to be a part of it."**

Help Shape Better Housing for Community

The Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum are working with community to develop Aboriginal-led regional housing and homelessness plans in order to improve outcomes for community.

This survey is one way we are making sure that the plans are centred on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and experience and is anonymous.

Scan the QR code to complete the survey.

SCAN

Community Info Sessions : Pathways to Home Ownership

Come along to a Pathway to Home Ownership Info session to find out more about **AHV's Renter Home Purchase Program**, Homes Victoria's First People's Home Ownership Program, home loans available through IBA and NAB, and general information about home ownership options and pathways available.

Mildura	Swan Hill
17 June	19 June

Time and location details are listed in the Community Events on page 6-7 of Mia Mia.

For more information visit the AHV website or email **homebuyer@ahvic.org.au**

Meet Melinda!

Melinda has recently joined the team as a Housing Officer in the South East Division working out of our Fitzroy Office. She brings extensive experience from running her own NDIS business alongside a strong background in mental health, alcohol and drug, and community services. She is committed to building strong relationships, maintaining open communication, and supporting renters to sustain their tenancies and improve their quality of life. Welcome Melinda!

Meet Darcey!

Darcey has recently joined AHV as a Financial Counsellor in our Housing Pathways team. He brings a diverse background, having worked in Aboriginal communities in Central Australia and within the prison system, as well as in private enterprise. Now working in financial counselling since 2024, he is passionate about supporting people who are committed to achieving home ownership and is a loyal Collingwood supporter.

Money Hacks

Taking care of our money is an important part of supporting ourselves, our families, and our communities. Small changes can make a big difference over time. Darcey shares a few simple, practical tips to help you keep more money in your pocket.

🏧 **Avoid ATM Fees**
Withdrawing cash? Be sure to use your banks ATM locations or withdraw at fee-free locations such as Coles or Woolworths to avoid withdrawal fees.
Potential saving: Around $250 per year

📱 **Be Smart with Phone Plans**
Phone contracts can seem convenient, but they often cost more in the long run.
Tip: Buy your phone outright and look for a lower-cost prepaid or yearly plan.
Potential saving: Around $600 per year

🎬 **Review Your Streaming Services**
Streaming services can add up quickly, especially if you have more than one subscription and don't use them all.
Tip: Check your subscriptions & cancel any you don't use often. You might also rotate services (for example, one month of Netflix, then switch to another) or return to free-to-air TV for a while.
Potential saving: Up to $936 per year

This information is general in nature only. It is prepared without knowing your personal objectives, financial situation, or needs. Before acting on it, you should evaluate its appropriateness for your circumstances.

Congratulations Aunty Daphne!

Aboriginal Housing Victoria congratulates AHV Chairperson, Aunty Daphne Yarram, on her induction into the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.

Aunty Daphne's contribution to Victorian Aboriginal communities spans more than 30 years and includes leadership in family violence prevention, healing, justice and advocacy.

Her leadership at AHV continues to centre the voices and experiences of renters, community and particularly, women, in all that we do.

While we have long known the significance and impact of Aunty Daphne's leadership and advocacy, we are heartened to see her recognised in this way by the Victorian Government.

This recognition also places Aunty Daphne alongside former AHV Chairpersons and founding Board Members, Aunty Winnie 'Narrandjeri' Quagliotti and Aunty Pat Ockwell, within the Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.

As the Minister for First Peoples, the Hon. Ros Spence said, "*The Aboriginal Honour Roll is a list of legends who have shaped their communities and Victoria for the better.*

These trailblazers are prime examples of how First Nations excellence and advocacy make our state stronger."

Congratulations again Aunty Daphne!

Community News and Events

Ballarat

Bee Hotel Workshop
📅 1 June 4:00pm - 5:00pm
📍 403 Main Road, Golden Point, VIC
Hands-on workshop where young people will discover the fascinating world of native bees. Open to BADAC Youth Program participants and their friends.
📞 Contact BADAC to learn more

BADAC NAIDOC Community Day
📅 8 July, 10:00am - 2:00pm
📍 Ballarat High School
📞 More info coming soon via BADAC

Career Expo for Youth
📅 12 August, 10:00am - 2:00pm
📍 108 Armstrong St Nth, Ballarat Central
For ages 14-18. Explore pathways to education, training and employment.
📞 Kristie: 0476 982 732 or **kleon@badac.net.au**

Gippsland

Breast Screening Mobile Clinic
📅 1-5 June
📍 GEGAC, 37-53 Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale
Free, confidential breast screening at GEGAC for women 50+, or 40+ with a family history.
📞 Call (03) 9675 0050 or book online at **www.breastscreen.org.au**

South East NOW 2026
📅 13 June - 25 July
📍 East Gippsland Art Gallery, 2 Nicholson St, Bairnsdale
📍 GLaWAC, Aboriginal Art Gallery, 27 Scriveners Rd, Kalimna West
South East NOW is a celebration of the depth, diversity and strength of contemporary First Nations art, bringing together established and emerging Koorie artists with deep connection to Gunaikurnai Country held across two venues.
📞 Learn more at **gunaikurnai.org**

Bendigo, Shepparton & Northern Regions

Dardi Munwurro Statewide Men's Gathering
📅 10-12 June
📍 Kallara Conference Centre, Strathbogie Ranges
Dardi's annual gathering brings men together to strengthen identity, build relationships and continue important conversations around culture, community and connection.
📞 Email **info@dardimunwurro.com.au** for more info

Mildura Pathway to Home Ownership Community Info Session
📅 17 June, 10:30am -2:00pm
📍 120 Madden Ave, Mildura 3500
Come along to a Pathway to Home Ownership info session to learn about AHV's Renter Home Purchase Program, Homes Victoria's First People's Home Ownership Program, IBA and NAB home loans, and other homeownership options.
📞 Email **homebuyer@ahvic.org.au** to register

Swan Hill Pathway to Home Ownership Community Info Session
📅 19 June, 10:30am -2:00pm
📍 70 Nyah Rd, Swan Hill 3585
Come along to a Pathway to Home Ownership info session to learn about AHV's Renter Home Purchase Program, Homes Victoria's First People's Home Ownership Program, IBA and NAB home loans, and other homeownership options.
📞 Email **homebuyer@ahvic.org.au** to register

Sisters Day Out –Robinvale
📅 30 June, 9:00am - 3:00pm
📍 Robinvale Community Arts Centre
Sisters Day Out® is a culturally safe workshop for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to come together for a day of connection, pampering, and wellbeing. Enjoy cultural and wellness activities, and a space to yarn, learn, and feel supported.
📞 Email: **sistersdayout@djirra.org.au**

Netball Clinic & Umpiring Workshop
📅 1 July, 10:00am - 12:00pm
📍 Red Energy Arena - 91 Inglis St, West Bendigo
An opportunity for mob to get together, learn to play netball and further develop netball skills!
📞 Visit **vic.netball.com.au** to learn more

Dharnya Day
📅 8 July
📍 Dharnya Cultural Centre, Sandridge Track
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation is celebrating the Grand Opening of the Dharnya Cultural Centre this NAIDOC Week.
📞 Visit **yynac.com.au** to learn more

Rumbalara NAIDOC Family Day
📅 9 July 10:00am -2:00pm
📞 Visit Rumbalara's social pages to learn more!

Metro Melbourne & Surrounds

Always Was Always Will Be, Bakandji Fashion Exhibition
📅 30 May - 12 July
📍 St Albans Community Centre, 33 Princess St,
Highlighting the dazzling Always Was, Always Will Be Bakandji Fashion collection by Aunty Jeanie Mason.
📞Visit **events.brimbank.vic.gov.au** to learn more

Mabo Day Celebration
📅 3 June, 5:30pm - 8:30pm
📍Fed Square
Concert on the main stage at the Edge Federation Square celebrating the musical traditions and history of the Torres Strait.
📞 Tickets: **melbourne.vic.gov.au**

Ngwala Richmond Open Day
📅 12 June, 11:00am - 2:00pm
📍 14 Risley Street, Richmond
Celebrate the opening of Ngwala's new Richmond Office with a deadly feed, cultural activities & more.
📞 Contact 1800 NGWALA or email **reception@ngwala.org.au**

Ngwala 50 Years of Deadly
📅 2 July, 11:00am
📍 St Kilda Town Hall
Join Ngwala to celebrate NAIDOC Week. Enjoy the Ngwala Coffee Van and food, community and cultural activities including face painting, giant bubbles, show bags & more.
📞 Contact Adileen 0425 854 507, Alice 0448 314 343, or Clayton 0490 749 269

VACSAL 3 on 3 Basketball tournament
📅7 July, 9:00am start
📍Narrandjeri Stadium, 281 Darebin Rd, Thornbury
VACSAL has partnered with VAHS - The Koori Way for this year's 3 on 3 basketball tournament.
📞 Contact VACSAL to learn more and register

AHV NAIDOC Family Day
📅8 July, 10:30am - 2pm
📍Aborigines Advancement League
Join us for our 25th Annual NAIDOC Family Day and enjoy live entertainment, arts and crafts, sports clinics and a free BBQ.

Echoes of Earth Art Exhibition
📅8 July - 2 August
📍 Gallery Unbound, 97 High St, Northcote
Free First Nations group exhibition presented in partnership with VACSAL, showcasing contemporary artworks by 20–40 artists and celebrating Country, Culture, and Connection.
📞 Learn more: **galleryunbound.com.au**

Deadly NAIDOC Community Basketball Game
📅12 July
📍 Monash University, 42 Scenic Blvd, Clayton
This highly anticipated event will feature a thrilling matchup between the Koorie Academy Allstars and Team Ngwala, bringing the community together for a day of sport, culture, and celebration.
📞 Visit the Koorie Academy Facebook to learn more

Oonah Youth NAIDOC Ball 2026
📅 17 July, 6:00 - 10:00pm
📍Chateau Wyuna, 170 Swansea Rd, Mount Evelyn
Dress your best for this free event for young mob aged 7-17 and their families.
📞 Email **events@oonah.org.au** to register.
Registration closes 1 July.

Hume Welcome Baby to Country
📅 5 August, 10:45am
📍 Townhall Broadmeadows
Welcome Baby to Country is a ceremony where children 0-5 will be welcomed to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country.
📞 Register by emailing:
aboriginalengagementteam@hume.vic.gov.au

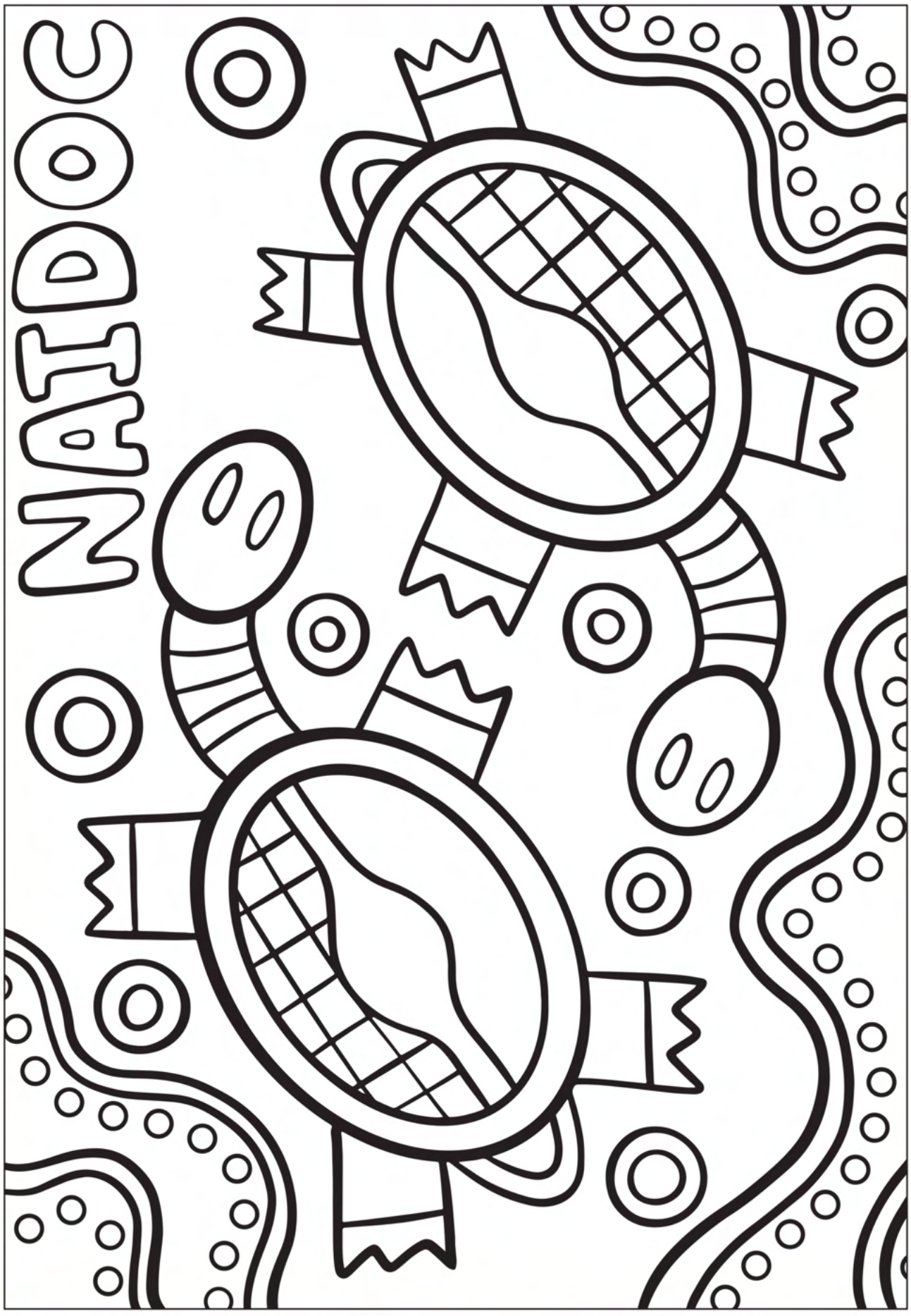
Geelong, Barwon & Western Regions

Sisters Day Out – Warrnambool
📅 16 June, 9:30am - 3:00pm
📍City Memorial Bowls Club, Warrnambool VIC
Sisters Day Out®is a culturally safe workshop for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to come together for a day of connection, pampering, and wellbeing. Enjoy cultural and wellness activities, and a space to yarn, learn, and feel supported.
📞 Email: **sistersdayout@djirra.org.au**

2026 Wathaurong NAIDOC Ball
📅 4 July, 6:30pm - 11:00pm
📍 Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention Centre
📞 Contact Wathurong to learn more

Winda-Mara NAIDOC Family Day
📅 10 July, 11:00am - 3:00pm
📍 Lake Condah Mission
📞 Visit Winda-Mara's social pages to learn more!

Kids Corner



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