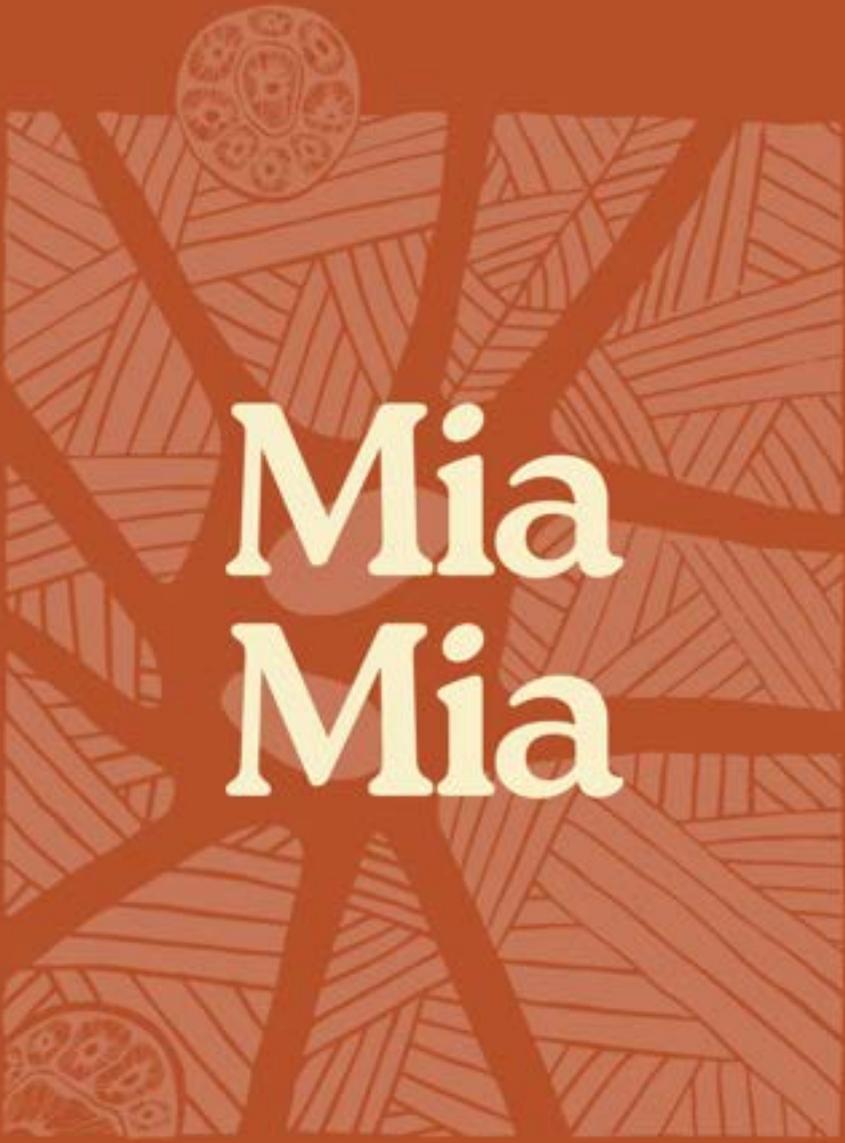




ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA



Mia Mia

Renter Newsletter
Edition 1, March 2026

Mia Mia

Aboriginal Housing Victoria
Renter Newsletter | Edition 1 2026

We are thrilled to be sharing our first edition of Mia Mia for 2026!

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 Yarns are being held in the following locations...

- **Warrnambool:** 18 March
- **Portland:** 20 March
- **Heidelberg West:** 26 March
- **Doveton:** 8 May
- **Ringwood:** 12 May

Find your closest Community Lunch & Yarn in the Community Events on page 6-7 of Mia Mia.

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

Aboriginal Homes Thrive Wellbeing Event

When: 18 March 2026

Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Where: Wathaurong Booln Booln Cultural Centre, 410 Surf Coast Hwy, Grovedale

Come along to meet our Aboriginal Homes Thrive team and take part in a series of hands-on coaching activities focused on wellbeing, goal setting and more.

This is a great opportunity to build confidence, connect with the team, and explore tools to support your personal and professional goals. Refreshments provided.



RSVP via the QR code

Questions? Email wellbeing@ahvic.org.au



Festive Lights Competition



Thank you to everyone who sent in photos of your beautiful Christmas decorations.

A big congratulations to **Glenda from Wendouree** for your fabulous festive lights!

Property Compliance Checks

All AHV properties are currently undergoing annual compliance checks.

These checks are mandatory and include yearly smoke alarm testing, routine inspections of gas and electrical appliances, lights, and switchboards.

They help prevent faults, reduce risks, and ensure your home remains safe and comfortable.

If your property has not completed the compliance check, please check your email or text messages to schedule your check with Taskforce.

Annual Rent Review

The next Annual Rent Review will begin in April 2026. You can expect to receive further information from AHV by mid-April.

AHV's Housing Pathways



AHV's Housing Pathways Team supports renters, applicants and community members to understand and navigate housing pathways, including renting, support with housing options, and pathways toward home ownership.

Renter Home Purchase Program

The RHPP is now accepting Expression of Interest forms until Tuesday 30 June 2026.

AHV's RHPP gives eligible renters a fair and culturally safe pathway into home ownership, beginning with a limited number of available AHV homes in 2026. Stay tuned for upcoming **Community Information Sessions** on the RHPP and other housing pathways.

Learn more about the program and download the EOI form at:

ahvic.org.au/programs/RHPP



First Peoples Home Ownership Program

The Victorian Government's First Peoples Home Ownership Program is designed to give First Peoples in Victoria a stronger pathway to owning their own home. The program includes a range of financial assistance products including cash grants towards legal and administrative fees, contributions and matched payments for deposits and land transfer duty.

Learn more via the QR code or visit: homes.vic.gov.au/first-peoples-home-ownership



Meet the team!



Dani

Housing Pathways Manager | Dani is a proud Dja Dja Wurrung, Ngurai Illum Wurrung and Wamba Wemba queer mum living on Wurundjeri Country in the Dandenong Ranges. Dani has more than 20 years' experience across state government, tertiary education, NFPs, legal services and the ACCO sector. She has worked in roles involved in Royal Commissions, policy and project development, agreement negotiations, and frontline support. Dani is committed to supporting Mob into home ownership to build intergenerational wealth, reduce disadvantage and enable healing. In her spare time, she enjoys weaving or trying to get fit.

Southern ACCO Home Ownership Officer |

Nayuka is a Kurnai woman raised in Gippsland & Melbourne who has worked with Mob throughout her career. She is passionate about supporting community in their path to home ownership.

Nayuka



Violet



Eastern ACCO Home Ownership Officer |

Violet is a proud Yorta Yorta woman from Shepparton, with a career spanning education, housing, justice, family violence, hospitality, counselling and AOD. She's a mum of three and a devoted fur-mum, passionate about empowering her mob and breaking down barriers to healing and growth. Violet is excited to support community members to enter the property market and build futures. She looks forward to meeting everyone and making new connections.

Renter Home Purchase Program Coordinator |

Kim is a proud woman connected to Wadi Wadi, Mudi Mudi, & Wemba Wemba Mob, who has called Bendigo home for over 20 years. She has dedicated her career to supporting Aboriginal families across housing, health, & family violence services. Outside work, Kim loves returning to the coast to ground herself in the sand.

Kim



Questions? Want to learn more? Email homebuyer@ahvic.org.au



Treaty Elections

Treaty Elections are coming up. Nominations are open 16 February - 2 March and voting will be open from 21 March to 12 April.

Learn more and enrol at: treatyelections.org

**YOUR
VOTE
MATTERS**

Allowing access for Maintenance & Property Inspections

Help us help you keep your home safe. Allowing our contractors access to your property for routine inspections and maintenance helps us prevent major repairs and safety risks.

These inspections help AHV identify repairs early and track property condition for future works. If a scheduled visit conflicts with your availability, work with your Housing Officer to find a suitable time.

A Property Condition Assessment Program is set to begin in March 2026. This is the start of an ongoing program, ensuring all properties are regularly assessed and maintained.

NAIDOC 2026: Calling all artists and performers...

NAIDOC Week is coming soon! We're looking for **artists** and **performers** to be part of the celebrations. If you're a **singer, dancer, visual artist** or would like to **host a stall**, we'd love to hear from you.

Email community@ahvic.org.au for more information.



Getting into Work, Training, and Art Scholarship



Are you wanting to start work or training but short on funds for clothes, tools or course costs? Creating crafts or artworks to sell, but need materials?

AHV is offering renters Getting into Work, Training and Art Scholarships of up to \$500 to help cover expenses such as supplies, tools, uniforms or course fees.

Learn more by scanning the QR code or email community@ahvic.org.au



Pet Photo Competition

Drumroll, please... our next community competition is Pet Photos!

It's time for your furry, feathered, or scaly companions to shine. We're inviting all renters to snap and share the cutest, funniest, or most wonderfully chaotic moments of their pets—whether they're being silly, zooming around, striking a dramatic pose, or snoozing in a strange position.

All pets are welcome, and winners will be featured in the next edition of Mia Mia. **Prize winners will also receive vouchers to spend at the pet store of their choice.**

Submit your photo by 5 May to community@ahvic.org.au



Have you logged into the AHV Renter Portal?



Get instant access to your tenancy information online via the **AHV Renter Portal**. Viewing your account balance, paying rent or reporting a maintenance issue is now at your fingertips. **Learn more and login at myahvic.org.au**

Making Swift Walk a Home



Last November, we joined Assemble, Housing Choices Australia and HESTA alongside the Federal Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Cities, the Hon. Clare O'Neil MP to celebrate the opening of Swift Walk, a landmark project delivered with support from the Housing Australia Future Fund through funding provided by Housing Australia.

Earlier this year, AHV renters moved into their new homes, bringing energy, connection and community into the development. As the boxes are unpacked and new routines settle in, residents are already sharing what this move means for them.

Here's what two AHV residents had to say...

"A home for me means security, safety, and a place where I can finally start to flourish."

Before coming here, I was in private rental and trying to escape what I call a violent situation. I moved into Swift Walk in the last month. My brother lives three floors above me, which is really special. We lived together beforehand and it's nice to be close to family - to know someone who cares about you is just a few floors away - but also to have your own personal space and independence."

-Wesley, Swift Walk Resident

"I moved in about three weeks ago. I've never had air conditioning in my life, so having a roof over my head and cool air on 42-degree days feels incredible. It's also really handy having two train stations nearby, great cafés close by, and even a washing machine on the roof."

I've always loved the outdoors, so having a little balcony where I can wake up and have a coffee and watch the sunrise means a lot."

I was homeless for a while, then went to rehab, got sober, and started renting privately in the city. But after COVID, prices went up and I was really struggling."

Now I live here with my son. It's the first time we've lived together in ten years, and my daughter comes over and stays the night occasionally. It's bringing my kids back into my life. It feels like a little family home again."

-Duane, Swift Walk Resident



Swift Walk represents more than just housing, it's a place designed for stability, pride, and future opportunity.

We're excited to see this community grow and to continue working with our partners to support safe, cultural and connected housing for Aboriginal people and families.

Community News and Events

Bendigo, Shepparton & North West Regions

Artwork Competition - BDAC 2026 NAIDOC

📅 Until 16 March 2026

BDAC is inviting Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander artists, aged 16 years and over, to enter their 2026 NAIDOC Week Artwork Competition and have your artwork featured in BDAC's 2026 NAIDOC Week events and promotions.

📞 Visit the BDAC website to learn more

Djirra's Sisters Day Out - Swan Hill

📅 17 March, 9:30am - 3:00pm

📍 Swan Hill Jockey Club, Swan Hill

This workshop is a wonderful opportunity for Aboriginal women in the area to come together, share experiences, and access essential resources.

📞 For more information visit djirra.org.au

Songlines & Seasons: A Journey Through Djaara Time

📅 Until 27 March 2026

📍 DUMAWUL Creative Arts & Tourism Hub, Experience the beauty of Djaara seasonal knowledge through the Songlines & Seasons Exhibition at DUMAWUL.

📞 Opening hours at: dumawul.com.au

VACSAL & Phoenix First Aid Sports Trainer Course - Shepparton

📅 28 - 29 March 2026

📞 For more info contact Jacob jacobb@vacsal.org.au

Gippsland

National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Gathering

📅 5-7 May

📍 GLWAC, 27 Scriveners Rd, Kalimna West Multi day on-Country event celebrating Indigenous leadership & excellence in emergency management, community recovery, disaster resilience and Caring for Country.

📞 Learn more and register via [humantix](https://humantix.com.au)

Geelong, Barwon & Western Regions

Aboriginal Homes Thrive Wellbeing Event

📅 18 March, 11:00am - 1:00pm

📍 Wathaurong Booln Booln Cultural Centre, 410 Surf Coast Hwy, Grovedale

Meet the team & take part in a series of hands-on coaching activities focused on wellbeing, goal setting & more. 📞 Register via [Humantix](https://humantix.com.au) or email wellbeing@ahvic.org.au

VACSAL Statewide Basketball Classics

📅 7 March - 9 March 2026

📍 Geelong Arena, 110 Victoria St

📞 Call June Bamblett for more info: 9416 4266

AHV Community Yarn - Warrnambool

📅 18 March, 5:00pm - 7:30pm

📍 24 Hopkins Road, Warrnambool

Yarn with AHV senior staff about the issues that matter to you. This is a part of Gunditjmara's Watta Tukkeen: Community Dinner.

📞 Visit ahvic.org.au for more details

Lake Bolac Eel Festival

📅 27 - 29 March,

📍 Lake Bolac

Celebrate culture, community, & Country at the Lake Bolac Eel Festival, a 3-day event honouring the region's rich First Nations heritage & the traditional eel migration season.

📞 Visit eelfestival.org.au to register

AHV Community Yarn - Portland

📅 20 March, 11:00am - 1:00 pm

📍 Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service, 18 Wellington Rd

Yarn with AHV senior staff about the issues that matter to you. Visit ahvic.org.au for more details

Koori Karnival

📅 21 March, Warrnambool Showgrounds

📞 Visit The Koori Way on social to learn more

Stand Up Paddleboard Program

📅 12 & 26 March, 4:30pm - 6:30pm

📍 Geelong Waterfront, Eastern Beach

📞 For further information please contact Joe joe@surfingvic.org.au or 0490 441 820

Metro Melbourne & Surrounds

Bunurong Sports Club Community Basketball Clinic

📅 6 March, 7:30pm - 9:00pm
📍 Olive Road Sporting Complex, Doveton
Open for all our mob, of all ages and abilities.
Please bring your own basketball
☎ Contact Emma at 0448 436 957

The Koori Way Western Colour Fun Run

📅 15 March, 10:00am - 12:00pm
📍 Seasons Park, Tarnait
☎ Visit The Koori Way on Facebook

Victorian Statewide Treaty - Community Update

📅 18 March, 6:30 - 7:30pm
📍 Brunswick Town Hall
Join the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to hear about Treaty and what comes next.
☎ Register via eventbrite

Women Wellbeing Workshop

📅 21 March - Arts and Craft
📅 18 April - Jewellery Making
📅 23 May - Woodburning
📍 Winhaven, 170 Dalrymple Rd, Sunbury
Hosted by Sunbury Aboriginal Council and Winhaven Psychology & Animal Assisted Therapy. All workshops run from 10am - 2pm.
☎ Register & more info via: ajadmin@winhaven.com.au

Balnarring Ngargee Festival

📅 14 March, 10:00am - 5:00pm
📍 Emu Plains Reserve Coolart Road
☎ Visit balnarringfestival.com.au

Reconciliation Fun Run

📅 21 March 2026, 10:00am - 3:00pm
📍 Frankston Waterfront Reserve
Join First People's Health & Wellbeing for a day of family fun, entertainment, equality and inclusion.
☎ Visit fphw.org.au to learn more.

Ngwala Community BBQ

📅 26 March, 11:00am - 2:00pm
📍 106 Elizabeth Street, Richmond
Meet the Ngwala team at our Community BBQ! They'll be yarning with mob, sharing info about programs and getting input from community.
☎ Contact Kyanna - 0492 924 231

AHV Community Yarn - Doveton

📅 8 May, 12:00pm - 3:00pm
📍 Casey Gathering Place, 20 Agonis St
Yarn with AHV senior staff about the issues that matter to you. Visit ahv.org.au for more details.

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place Health Expo

📅 7 April
📍 Maroondah Federation Estate
☎ Contact Peta 0400 752 165 for more details.

AHV Community Yarn - Ringwood

📅 12 May, 1:00pm - 3:00 pm
📍 Central Ringwood Community Centre
Yarn with AHV senior staff about the issues that matter to you. Visit ahv.org.au for more details.

Ballarat

BADAC Basketball Youth Skills - Wendouree

📅 2 March, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
📍 Forest Street Primary School, 323 Forest St
Come along and practice your basketball skills. Bring a drink bottle, snacks provided.
☎ For more info call Daen 0457 274 414 or Kristie 0476 982 732

Stand Up Paddleboard Program

📅 11 & 25 March, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
📍 Lake Esmond
Join Victorian Indigenous Surfing for a feed and a stand up paddle board session.
☎ For further information please contact Joe joe@surfingvic.org.au or 0490 441 820

Kids Corner

How many pawprints can you find?



Draw your favourite animal!



Add some colour to these creatures!

