



KALWUN

Jellurgal
Aboriginal Cultural Centre

KALWUN Grapevine

Spring 2023



In this
edition:

Photos from all of the
amazing events from
the last few months.

Read about our 3 day staff
cultural orientation

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Senior Fest

Celebrating Wisdom and Legacy

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Tell us what you want to see

If you have any suggestions for content for future editions of Kalwun Grapevine, email them to headoffice@kalwun.com.au

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facebook.com/Kalwun
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Finishing the year with celebration

As we race towards the end of another year at an alarming pace, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the tireless and dedicated work of all 174 heroic Kalwun staff who roll up their sleeves, day-in and day-out, to support our families and community.

This year has been a fast-paced and challenging one as cost of living pressures have forced more people to access our services than ever before. Our team have advocated for increased services to meet the demand and ensure our people can thrive.

After the unfortunate cancellation earlier in the year due to weather, the Gold Coast Titans NAIDOC Day has been rescheduled for Friday 15 December and I encourage community to come down and take part in the celebration. There will be kids activities, food and drinks, musical and dance performances and much more. We hope to see you there!

I wish you all a fun, fulfilling and safe festive season.

Ngaurai ngulungmai (speak soon),

Kieran Chilcott, Chief Executive Officer



All Kalwun sites and Jellurgal will be closed from 1pm Friday 22 December 2023 and re-open on Wednesday 3 January 2024.

Kalwun management and staff would like to thank you for your support throughout the year and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Sign up to our exciting events emails.

Scan the QR code to add your name to our events mailing list.

Corporate Support Services leader wins Employee of the Year award

The 2022/2023 Kalwun Employee of the Year award was presented to Dennis Bothma, Chief Financial Officer and General Manager – Seniors Services for his leadership, understanding and dedication.

Every day, Dennis is a reminder to the entire Kalwun staff that behind every statistic, every program, every dollar, and every success story, there is someone who tirelessly works to make a difference. He is an unsung hero, a quiet leader, and a compassionate soul who makes the organisation a better place.

Year after year, Dennis demonstrates renewed dedication, unwavering compassion, and a shared commitment to making a positive impact on the lives we touch. He has become part of the heart and soul of the organisation – not ever scared to take on a challenge and has been a critical part of our growth over the past six years in the areas of Corporate Support and Seniors Services.

Dennis has bravely taken on a range of portfolios across Kalwun, resulting in a legacy of care, understanding, and support that will resonate for many years.



Kalwun CEO, Kieran Chilcott, and Chairperson, William Oui, present Dennis Bothma with the 2023 Kalwun Employee of the Year award.

Dennis is a man of conviction, follow-through and unassuming assertiveness and is kind, fair, committed to culture and all heart.

Thank you, Dennis, for the legacy you are creating and the impact you will continue to have.

2022/2023 Staff achievements

Each year, Kalwun recognises and celebrates individual and team achievements across the organisation. We would like to congratulate the below staff members and teams for their hard work and dedication across the 2022/2023 year.

SENIOR SERVICES – EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Katrina Best and Delwyn Springer

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES – EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Ellie Tan and Dr Katrina McLean

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES – EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Natasha Peet and Katie Thompson

KALWUN HEAD OFFICE AND JELLURGAL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE – EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Amanda Arthurson

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Cameron Weightman, Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre
Therese Kulbicki, Health and Wellbeing Services**

THE CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Dr Katrina McLean, Ian Ell-Balalas, George Graham, Ellie Tan, Jade Dale and Ronald Dodd

THE BOB PASCOE SILENT ACHIEVER AWARD

Creedence Blanco, Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre

KALWUN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Dennis Bothma, Chief Financial Officer and General Manager – Seniors Services

Kalwun's 3 Day Orientation: A Deep Dive into Culture and Efficiency

Tuesday 5 September marked the launch of Kalwun's inaugural three-day orientation program for staff.

The journey begins with a deep dive into Kalwun's culture, a day dedicated to Cultural Awareness Training - a vital foundation for understanding what Kalwun stands for. After all, embracing culture is key to becoming a part of the Kalwun family.

New team members receive essential insights into HR processes and are equipped with the know-how to navigate Kalwun's technology and procedures, ensuring they can effectively navigate the workings of the organisation.

One of the most memorable moments of the program launch day was the attendance of a special guest, Aunty Joyce Summers, during the 'Yarn & Share' session. Aunty Joyce delivered a captivating overview of the history of Kalwun, connecting the past with the present and illuminating the path toward a promising future.

The new orientation program was created in response to Kalwun's Strategic Plan 'Towards 2025' priority: 'Embed an industry leading staff training and induction program with a focus of staff education, familiarisation, and engagement'. The program encompasses all business units and operational procedures, ultimately boosting Kalwun's agility, responsiveness, and efficiency.

The three-day orientation is about bringing the Kalwun community together, new and existing, and arming them with the knowledge, skills, and cultural understanding necessary for success within the organisation. It's a reflection of Kalwun's dedication to fostering unity, inclusiveness, and shared values among its members.



Jellurgal wins a Silver Award at the Queensland Tourism Awards

Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre has reached a significant milestone, clinching the Silver Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism Experiences at the prestigious Queensland Tourism Awards in Cairns last Friday. This recognition speaks volumes about the hard work, commitment, and passion poured into making Jellurgal a truly distinctive and exceptional cultural experience by the Kalwun team and all those involved, both past and present.

It's not just a celebration of our dedication to delivering top-notch tourism experiences; it's also a nod to the rich cultural legacy embodied by Jellurgal. A big shout-out goes to every member of our team who played a part in the transformation over the last 18 months. Your dedication has been instrumental in turning Jellurgal into an award-winning cultural hotspot.

The Queensland Tourism Awards spotlight excellence in the tourism industry, and our Silver Award reflects our dedication to offering visitors an authentic and enriching cultural experience. This achievement is a group effort, and as we revel in our success, let's use it as fuel to keep pushing boundaries. Together, we can aim higher, excel in our craft, and contribute to the growth and recognition of Jellurgal Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

Looking forward to more celebrations with the entire Kalwun and Jellurgal team and continuing to make our community, Elders, and ancestors proud!



Deadly Choices

FISHING EVENT

WED 13 SEPTEMBER
9AM-1PM • CURRUMBIN CREEK



The Deadly Choices fishing event at Currumbin Creek on Wednesday 13 September was an absolute blast! We had a fantastic turnout of 50 passionate fishing enthusiasts, all eager to cast their lines and have a great time. The day began with a traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony to encourage good fishing by the Biren Cultural Group, setting the perfect vibe for our fishing adventure.

We were thrilled to hand out prizes for the first catch of the day and the biggest fish, and a huge shoutout to our friends at Tweed Bait for generously supplying the bait.

Plus, exciting news – we're already planning a special event just for the kids in the future! Keep an eye out for updates as we continue to spread the joy of fishing throughout our community. A big thank you to all who made this day so unforgettable!



Fostering Cultural Inclusivity: Our Success at the Cultures of Care Forum



Our General Manager, Tracey, recently seized the opportunity to address the Cultures of Care forum. This gathering aimed to unite Indigenous and non-Indigenous agencies dedicated to supporting Indigenous Aged Care individuals. The objective was to collaboratively strategize on optimal ways to assist this group in anticipation of the impending National Aged Care reforms. The event proved to be a resounding success, garnering positive feedback and acclaim.

Tracey's participation underscored our commitment to fostering inclusive and culturally sensitive approaches in Aged Care. By engaging in constructive dialogue, the forum facilitated valuable insights and actionable plans. This accomplishment signifies a pivotal step towards aligning our practices with the evolving landscape of National Aged Care policies. As we navigate these changes, our dedication to enhancing the well-being of Indigenous Aged Care recipients remains steadfast, reflecting a commitment to holistic care and community collaboration.

Jellurgal

Aboriginal Cultural Centre



Exciting News at Jellurgal!

Our Summer Upgrade is almost complete, and the vibes are incredible! Picture this: the alluring aroma of freshly brewed coffee from our new state-of-the-art machine as you explore our revamped space.

The front desk is your gateway to Walkabout Tours, promising an enriched experience. Plus, our inviting entrance ensures easy navigation and a warm welcome.

Oh, and Christmas has arrived early at Jellurgal with a stock of festive goodies! Perfect gifts await, so swing by soon to check out the upgrades, enjoy the coffee, and snag some unique cultural Christmas goodies.



“SEWB’s Yarning Circle: A Journey of Healing and Self-Discovery”

Kalwun’s Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) team recently held their second yarning circle, and it was a heart warming and engaging event that brought together AoD clients from Lives Lived Well and Fairhaven Gold Coast Recovery Services. A remarkable 25 participants joined in, making it a truly special and vibrant gathering. This unique group’s primary focus is to assist clients in reconnecting with their cultural heritage, providing mutual support on their journey, and nurturing self-empowerment and determination.

The yarning circle was held at the picturesque Tallebudgera Creek, providing a serene backdrop for this empowering experience. It was designed to be a safe and welcoming space for the 25 clients who attended, allowing them to connect, find solace in their journey of healing, and, perhaps most

importantly, rediscover a profound sense of empowerment. This holistic approach is essential to supporting recovery and overall wellbeing.

What truly made this event special were the heartfelt expressions of the participants. The women who attended shared their feelings of being enveloped in a sense of belonging, much like when they were with their own Aunties. They spoke of the strong bonds they formed, the feeling of being valued, and the deep connection to their cultural heritage. This gathering left them with a lasting sense of grounding, empowerment, and a profound feeling of belonging that will undoubtedly play a significant role in their ongoing journey of recovery and personal growth.

KALWUN SENIOR SERVICES PRESENTS

2023

Senior Fest

Celebrating Wisdom and Legacy

On Friday 27 October our community came alive at the Bonogin Wellness Centre as we celebrated Senior Fest in a heartwarming display of culture, togetherness, and resilience. Despite the less-than-ideal weather, our seniors and Elders helped to make the day a true celebration of our shared heritage and experiences.

Our event wouldn’t have been the same without the incredible support from our dedicated vendors, each of whom added their unique touch to the festivities. Bunnings Warehouse brought their DIY expertise to the table, showing that age is no barrier to tackling new projects. Dementia Australia offered invaluable resources and support, reminding us of the importance of understanding and compassion. Super Soft Serve provided sweet treats to delight our taste buds and bring smiles to our faces.

But the heart of our celebration lay in the spotlight on Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and our sincere thanks go to Channel Nine for their feature on the SistaShawl initiative, a beautiful tribute to the strength and resilience of women in our community. This powerful initiative, in collaboration with BreastScreen Australia, underscored the importance of early detection and support.

Our event was further enriched by the presence of remarkable organizations such as BreastScreen Queensland, championing the cause of breast health, Deadly Choices, promoting Indigenous health and wellness, and Aged and Disability Advocates, advocating for the rights and wellbeing of our elderly and disabled community members. Balance Mobility ensured that everyone had access to mobility solutions, promoting independence and inclusion.

Senior Fest at the Bonogin Wellness Centre was not just a celebration; it was a testament to the strength of our community, the richness of our cultures, and the unwavering support we offer one another. We look forward to many more such gatherings in the future, strengthening the bonds that make our community a beautiful tapestry of shared experiences and mutual care.



Bonogin Wellness Centre's Groovy 70s Dance Party

In a heartwarming blast from the past, the Seniors Services team at the Bonogin Wellness Centre hosted a 70s-themed dance party in September. Complete with disco balls, colourful lights, and a soundtrack of 70s hits, the atmosphere was electric. Chef Darrell and assistant chef Adrian prepared a delicious menu featuring 70s classics like deviled eggs and fairybread, adding a nostalgic touch to the event.

The real magic, however, was on the dance floor. Elders and Seniors, along with the dedicated staff, danced the day away with infectious enthusiasm. It was a joyful celebration of life, reminding us all that the desire for fun and connection never truly fades with age.

Adding to the excitement, one of the stalwart clients, Karen, won our best-dressed award in the consumers category, while support worker Kailen won the best-dressed award in the staff category. These awards added a delightful touch of competition and camaraderie to the event.

The success of the event highlighted the Wellness Centre's commitment to not only meeting the physical and medical needs of its clients but also creating a second home filled with friendships and treasured memories. In a world that often rushes forward, this groovy event was a reminder to savour the simpler joys of life and cherish every moment.



If you or anyone you know could benefit from a confidential yarn, please reach out to us on (07) 5522 9197 or email kssintake@kalwun.com.au



On Wednesday 20 September 2023, we held a reunion at Varsity Lakes Community Centre for all the children who have attended Kalwun's Early Learning Program (ELP) since it commenced with students in 2016. The following activities were available for children and families to participate and engage with on the day:

- **Arts and Crafts:** symbols on Gowanda, creating Bird puppets from Dreamtime stories
- Jumping Castle
- Deadly Choices Games
- **Face painting:** donated and run by Bunnings, Burleigh Waters
- **Potting:** donated and run by Bunnings, Burleigh Waters
- **Biren Cultural Group:** Dance performance
- **Group Craft activity:** children were encouraged to contribute/paint a part of a canvas mural.
- We held a sausage sizzle and also had fruit and water available.



Children also had the opportunity to decorate a photo frame and have a photo with a beautiful Reunion sign which was then printed and placed inside the frame. The photo frame was a gift from the Early Learning Program to the children and families who have accessed the service over the years. This was a special event as the children who first attended the program in 2016 are off to high school in 2024.



Thriving Families: Kalwun's Journey of Positive Change Unveiled

Kalwun's Child, Youth and Family Services team work to empower families to live happy, healthy, safe lives and have recently shared positive stories of progress and change

KINSHIP AND FOSTER CARE

Edward* has transitioned out of residential care after three years, transitioning into a placement with his past neighbours who provided a great deal of support while in the residential system. Edward experiences challenges with mental and physical health and Kalwun's Kinship and Foster Care team applied for Placement Support Funding (IPS) to support the family based placement. The IPS Package funded youth worker supports throughout term 1 and 2 to provide assistance to Edward to increase his school hours. Already Edward has increased his schooling hours from 9am – 11:15am to 11:15am - 1pm and the team have applied for level 3 of Complex Support Needs Allowance to seek financial support for the carers to address Edward's long standing physical and medical health concerns that were not previously addressed. Edward's carers are happy a successful transition was achieved.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

A young mum had her baby removed from Child Safety for historical worries that included harm to her when she was a child. Kalwun's Family Participation Program (FPP) team became involved, supported the family to develop a family led decision making plan and attended Children's court with the family and their supports. The court agreed with FPP that Child Safety's removal and application for custody of the baby was not warranted and acknowledged the plan that was developed through the FPP process. The baby was returned to the parents. FPP continued to support the family through family led decision making and Child Safety processes, which has now led to support services taking the lead on the parents maintaining a safe environment for their baby and addressing their own childhood traumas.

*names have been changed for privacy



KARULBO
YARNING CIRCLE

Karulbo Yarning Circle

Kalwun invites Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, carers, community members and local service providers to participate in a yarning circle to help shape the health and wellbeing of our mob in the Gold Coast region. The Karulbo Yarning Circle allows mob to have their say in a culturally safe, informal, and supportive space and for service providers to update community and Elders of new and current programs.

Kalwun, as the lead agency for Karulbo, acknowledges the Karulbo initiatives undertaken by Gold Coast Health (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service) pre-pandemic. We also recognise the 3-way Karulbo Partnership between Kalwun, Gold Coast Health and Krurungal which began over a decade ago through resourcing provided by the

Gold Coast Partnership Council. Along the way many other Non-government organisations and Government agencies and educational institutions have been involved in shaping Karulbo and contributing to improved health and wellbeing outcomes for our Gold Coast Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

You can RSVP to Karulbo's Christmas Luncheon by acceptance of the calendar invite, emailing karulbo@kalwun.com.au OR by phoning (07) 55783434.

https://www.kalwun.com.au/images/Documents/Forms/Karulbo_Yarning_Circle_expressions_of_interest_INTERACTIVE.pdf



New Arrivals

We're absolutely thrilled to share these incredibly adorable photos of the newest members of our big family. A huge welcome to these little ones as they make their grand entrance into the world! And a big shout-out of congratulations to all the proud families. Your hearts must be bursting with love and excitement right now!



Bam – son of Amber and Tamati born 17th September



Neeve and Hayse – newborn twins of Chelsea and Te Aranui born 19th August



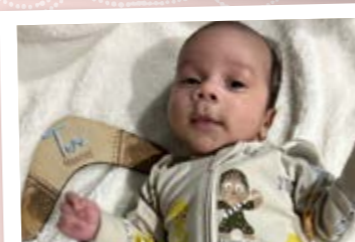
Harmony – daughter of Jasmine and James born 7th September



Dimitri – son of Jordan and Cade born 24th October



Jasper – son of Moesha and Lachlan born 30th September



Zyaire – son of Carolyn and Bryan born 15th August

FREE EVENT

NAIDOC DAY

COMMUNITY EVENT

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER | 11AM-3PM | FIRTH PARK, MUDGEERABA

PRESENTED BY

Deadly Choices

KALWUN PRESTON CAMPBELL FOUNDATION

MUSICAL & DANCE PERFORMANCES | FOOD & DRINKS

"For Our Elders"

INFORMATION STALLS | KIDS ACTIVITIES

"For Our Elders"

TITANS COMMUNITY PRESENTING PARTNER K/NET/C moving people SUPPORTING PARTNERS NEUMANN STEEL AIR PHYSIO MyPayNow elu