

MARANGUKA NEWSLETTER



October 2025



News from the Bourke Tribal Council

The members of the Bourke Tribal Council have been meeting regularly to discuss its own internal operations and what's happening in the Bourke community.

In September they had a visit from the staff from the Dusseldorp Forum, University of Technology Impact Studios, and the Paul Ramsay Foundation to deepen relationships for working together.

From the Executive Director & Founder

A lot has happened since our last update in July. We've been working on refreshing how we operate so we can better respond to the changes happening in our community and the world around us.

As part of this, we are starting to create our Strategic Plan for 2025–2030. We've held community sessions to hear your thoughts on how Maranguka should work in the future.

We're also reconnecting with local services, government organisations, and funding partners to strengthen our support network.

Keep reading to find out more about what we've been up to.

Alister Ferguson
Executive Director
& Founder





Upgrades to the Men's Hub

Progress is well underway with a significant new addition to the Men's Hub on Meek Street, the construction of a new shed expected to be completed shortly. The shed will serve as a dedicated space for cultural and hands-on activities, including arts and crafts, small machinery repairs, and other community-led programs.

The project is a collaborative effort between Maranguka Ltd and CatholicCare Wilcannia-Forbes, aimed at supporting local men by providing a safe and inclusive environment where they can come together, learn new skills, and build strong community connections.

Bourke Gets a new Aboriginal Child and Family Centre

Maranguka was recently awarded funding to develop a new Aboriginal Child and Family Centre (ACFC) at the Yanmali site in Bourke which will build upon services already being delivered by Bourke and District Children's Services.

Funded under the NSW Government's Expansion and Enhancement Program the new facilities will allow local health providers and community to work in a culturally grounded hub with early childhood services in Bourke, improving outcomes for our local children and their families.

Maranguka Community Safety Project

Recognising the issues currently impacting our community, Maranguka recently began the Community Safety Project which provides improved security for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal vulnerable households that have been the target of youth crime over the past 18 months.

This project is underpinned by Maranguka's Safe, Smart & Strong Strategy and improves home security for vulnerable households through the installation of security lights and cameras. The project also compliments existing youth support activities to reduce home invasions and thereby reduce the likelihood of youth incarceration.

If you or someone you know in Bourke has been repeatedly the victim of youth crime, please contact the Maranguka office to see what support can be provided to you.



Truth-telling with the Uncles

In August, some of the Uncles from the Kinchela Boys Home visited Bourke with their families for some truth-telling, healing and connection. The Uncles are a part of the Stolen Generation that were removed from their families as children and forced into a life of abuse at the Kinchela Boys Home, near Kempsey on the NSW Mid North Coast.

A community BBQ and truth-telling session took place in Central Park in Bourke, and the visitors also spent some time on country at Toorale, Gundabooka and Brewarrina.



Maranguka Working Groups

Our Working Groups bring together services and community members to better support the needs and priorities of the Bourke community. They focus on making life better for Aboriginal people in Bourke by working on key areas like: Early Childhood and Parenting, Young People aged 8 to 18, The Role of Women, and The Role of Men.

Each Working Group includes people from government and non-government organisations, service providers, and local community members. Together, they talk through local issues and find the best solutions that are led by the community.

If you'd like to join one of the Working Groups, please contact our office on: backbone@maranguka.org.au.



School Holiday Activities

Maranguka proudly partnered with 12 local service providers and agencies to deliver a wide range of fun and engaging activities for our local youth. From activities at the Bourke Pool, Welcome Baby to Country, craft activities and more, it was a fantastic example of our local community organisations working together for our local children and their families.

SAT 27 SEP	Wanaaring Gymkhana, Bikekhana, Mini Bull Ride and Family Fun Day Wanaaring Contact: Snow Payne 0477 041 320		SUN 05 OCT	Hungerford Sports Horse and Motorbike Gymkhana Hungerford Contact: Stacey Keane 07 4655 4828	
MON 29 SEP	StormCo Kids Club Bourke Pool 2pm to 4:30pm		TUE 07 OCT	Family Fun Day Bourke Pool From 12pm Free pool entry for children aged 3-16. Any child under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18. Contact: Nadine Mc Nulty from Thiyamali 6872 2440	
TUE 30 SEP	StormCo Kids Club Bourke Pool 2pm to 4:30pm		WED 08 OCT	Sacred Sports Bourke High School Multipurpose Centre 9am to 3pm	
WED 01 OCT	StormCo Kids Club Bourke Pool 2pm to 4:30pm		THU 09 OCT	Sacred Sports Bourke High School Multipurpose Centre 9am to 3pm Craft at Bourke Library From 10am Contact: Jodi Hatch 6872 2751 Welcome Baby to Bourke Darling Park From 11am Contact: Pat Canty 0409 246 712 Unites At PCYC Bourke PCYC 5pm to 9pm	
THU 02 OCT	Lego Fun Bourke Library From 10am Contact Jodi Hatch 6872 2751 StormCo Kids Club Bourke Pool 2pm to 4:30pm Unites At PCYC Bourke PCYC 5pm to 9pm		FRI 10 OCT	Sacred Sports Bourke High School Multipurpose Centre 9am to 3pm Unites At PCYC Bourke PCYC 5pm to 9pm	
FRI 03 OCT	Unites At PCYC Bourke PCYC 5pm to 9pm Hungerford Sports Horse and Motorbike Gymkhana Hungerford Whole weekend event – starts at 6pm Friday Contact: Stacey Keane 07 4655 4828		SAT 11 OCT	Back o' Bourke Stampede Bourke Showground From 3pm 'Cow Kids Hour' @ Rodeo TBC	
SAT 04 OCT	Hungerford Sports Horse and Motorbike Gymkhana Hungerford Contact: Stacey Keane 07 4655 4828				



For more information about the Maranguka Community Hub or updates on what is happening in our community go to: www.maranguka.org.au