

# MARANGUKA NEWSLETTER



December 2025

## From the Executive Director & Founder



It's hard to believe another year has gone by and we're already getting ready for Christmas and the start of 2026.

2025 has been a big year for Maranguka. We have been refreshing and strengthening the organisation so we can keep up with the changes happening in our community and across Australia. As part of this, we have welcomed some new staff and have been working hard to strengthen our programs and partnerships in Bourke.

This year, we also spoke with community to help shape our Strategic Plan for 2025–2030. We held yarning sessions to hear your ideas about how Maranguka should work in the future. The new plan will be shared in 2026, and we look forward to giving it back to the community who helped create it.

Maranguka is currently working alongside our partner organisations and community to develop a wide range of activities for our young people and families to enjoy over the upcoming school holidays. Keep an eye out for the Activity Calendar which will be distributed soon.

Finally, to everyone in our community, our supporters and funders, I wish you a very Merry Christmas. I hope you have a safe and happy festive season, and I look forward to continuing our shared work to Keep our Kids Growing up Safe, Smart and Strong in 2026.

Alister Ferguson  
Executive Director & Founder





## Maranguka's Community Strategic Plan 2025-2030

Over the past few months, Maranguka has been out in the community, sitting down for yarns about our future direction. We've been asking local families, young people, Elders and service providers what they want Maranguka to focus on over the next five years.

To help make sure everyone feels comfortable to share openly, we engaged Orange Compass — an independent organisation — to run these sessions. This has given community the space to speak honestly about what's working well, what needs to change, and the priorities you want us to take forward.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and shared your ideas. Your voice is shaping the future of Maranguka.

We'll continue to keep you updated on the development of our new Strategic Plan in the new year.

## Maranguka Services Appoints a New CEO

In October, Maranguka Services welcomed our new Chief Executive Officer, Kate Pargeter, after a strong national search.

Kate is a proud Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa woman who brings a deep connection to culture, community, and working together. She believes that real change happens when local people are supported to lead, and she's committed to strengthening the voices of Bourke families.

Kate has more than 20 years of experience across government and community organisations, most recently as a Director in the NSW Premier's Department. Her leadership is grounded in honesty, clear communication, and collaboration.

Maranguka Services continues to deliver key programs that support the wellbeing and future of our community — including Improving Multidisciplinary Responses (IMR), Picking up the Pieces, Save Our Sisters, Save Our Sons, and the Regional Youth Investment Program. These programs are developed alongside our local leaders to create real outcomes for Bourke.

We're excited to have Kate on board and look forward to the positive impact her leadership will bring to our community.







## News from the Bourke Tribal Council

The members of the Bourke Tribal Council have been meeting regularly to strengthen the way they work together and for the benefit of the community.

In October Mr. Simon Draper, Secretary of the NSW Premier's Department, and some of his senior staff met with the Tribal Council and Maranguka staff and heard about the current challenges facing Bourke, the strengths within the community and how Maranguka is working side by side with local Elders, the community and local services to make a positive difference for our families and children.



### Family Partnership Training

In November staff from Maranguka and CatholicCare came together to partake in Family Partnership Training in Bourke. This fantastic opportunity provided more skills and support to the people working alongside our local families and will help build stronger connections and better outcomes for the whole community



## School Holiday Activities

In October Maranguka proudly partnered with 12 local service providers and agencies to deliver a wide range of fun and engaging activities for our local youth.

Maranguka is once again a member of the Bourke School Holiday Committee and is busy planning another holiday period of exciting activities for our young people.

## Merry Christmas



From all the staff at Maranguka, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and joyful festive season. However you choose to spend this time, we hope it brings peace, happiness, and togetherness. Here's to a bright and prosperous New Year for our community.

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