

NALDERUN

EDUCATION ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

PROSPECTUS AND EDUCATION OVERVIEW 2021/2022



Nalderun is a Dja Dja Wurrung word which means 'all together', because we believe by moving forward together we can make the change needed for our children, our mob and the wider community in the Mount Alexander Shire region of Victoria to thrive. We are Aboriginal led and run - we know what our Community needs, as we are apart of it. For 10 years we have seen our children become stronger, proud and deadly. We know our future, and the future for our children's children is safe, having created programs and ways of being and teaching now.

We want you to join this journey in this two-way learning space. We look forward to walking forward together.

We invite you to support us in caring for Culture, Country and Community and to meet the needs of our mob, and the ever-increasing commitment to support these changes in the broader community, which builds respectful and reciprocal relationships for all.

We have written this document in a way that most organisations - Non-Indigenous organisations - show who they are. Our way is also through this video, a collaboration of 10 years of our work: NALDERUN - ALL TOGETHER - <https://youtu.be/aWNBTPpz1f0>

This video provides an opportunity to see over a number of years the impact this organisation has had towards strengthening Community and educating young people through teachings and Culture. The film offers both a celebration of important events and an intimate portrait of the adults and children that have grown with Nalderun. It is a behind the scenes window into an extraordinary organisation.

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WHO WE ARE

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Nalderun is an Aboriginal Education Community Organisation born on Dja Dja Wurrung Country, Castlemaine in Mount Alexander Shire, Victoria. We are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander run and lead, with 4 directors, 12 members, 15 staff and 26 volunteers, aged from 16 to 72. The majority of our Directors, members and staff are Indigenous members of the local Community. There are many layers to Nalderun however at our core we are driven to support the growth and wellbeing of our Young People and elevate the voices and leadership of our Elders.

This community includes approximately 180 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants in our ongoing programs. We also have extensive reach and participation within the broader community numbering well into the thousands.

OUR VISION

NALDERUN IS A
DJA DJA WURRUNG WORD
MEANING “ALL TOGETHER”

- Nalderun is all about Learning through Culture and Country. Through partnerships, programs and events, we teach about our ways and worldviews.
- First, at the core, is our kids and a commitment to creating a deadly future that supports them to thrive. Taking a holistic and strength-based approach, our programs respond to the challenges our Young People often face in the mainstream education system by teaching about their own Culture.
- Second, we have programs to nurture the Community that wraps around to support our kids and holds them to move through the school system and into meaningful work. This includes supporting the Education system and local schools with ways of teaching and curriculum that follows our protocols.
- And last, we educate and support the wider community – individuals, businesses, council, government and schools - through partnerships, events and teaching about our ways, and that moving forward both worldviews need to be in incorporated into all aspects of organisations. Nalderun means walking forward together as equals.

Operating since 2009 as Nalderun Aboriginal Services, in September 2020 we became Incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, and we are now a registered Charity and not-for-profit with Deductible Gift Recipient status. We currently have 4 directors, 12 members, 15 staff and a team of committed volunteers and are consistently working towards further secure employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. Our 2020/2021 program funding totalled just under \$400, 000 provided by federal, state and local bodies:

- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Federation of Victorian traditional Owner Corporation in partnership with Agriculture Victoria
- Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing - Aboriginal Workforce Fund

In early 2021 we also raised just over \$200 000 in donations to purchase Me-Mandook Galk – 7 acres of land located at Chewton, just a short walk from Castlemaine town centre, where we will be building a permanent home for our programs and community.

We have extensive collaboration and reach within the broader community, where we have built trusting and long lasting relationships. In 2021 our Indigenous Curriculum Team of ten teachers and mentors engaged more than 1950 local primary and high school students. And that’s not to mention our significant public events - like Reconciliation Week exhibitions and activities, Sorry Day ceremony, Cultural tours and film screenings - as well as consultations, lectures, publications, media and partnerships.

HOW WE WORK

- *The Meeting Place, held fortnightly during school terms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children. Students learn the curriculum, through our way – through Culture and Country.*
- *The Koorie Bus Service runs every morning to help get students to school. Ours and any others that need that support.*
- *Aunty and Uncle Mentoring Program develops a Community of Care by creating wrap-around services that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families with the Education system. Where uniforms, tutoring, working with teachers. Anything to help them thrive.*
- *The Nalderun Wrap Around Service for the School Based Apprentice Traineeships (SBAT) is a program that helps support sustainable employment and training for young Aboriginal people as they transition from school into the workforce. We support the student, tafe and host organisations.*
- *Kuli Business (Mens business) and Warrarrak (for young women and non-gender conforming people). Fortnightly programs for young Indigenous people aged 12 -25 to engage in Culture, Spirit and Community building activities on Country.*
- *The First Nations Youth Leadership Program is a mentoring program. A sustainable model our way, where Elders support our older youth who then go into schools to support our high school students and schools, led by three awesome Youth Mentors.*
- *Dharrak Djanga Indigenous Landcare group and Bush tucker farm. We have 3 current sites, where we are planting bush tucker and restoring Country for teaching and use.*

OUR PROGRAMS FOR MOB

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM OUTCOMES

SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER YOUTH IN EDUCATION AND BEYOND

- Increased engagement and attendance at school.
- Supporting students with reaching their full academic potential.
- Offering more intensive support and responsive mentorships for students and young people who need it.
- Year 10, 11, and 12 attainment.
- Supporting teachers with curriculum.
- Employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.
- Providing opportunities and support for useful training, further education and meaningful employment.
- Moving towards self-determination.
- Using a wrap-around approach to create an overall sense of community and support for students, parents, Elders and everyone in Community.
- Providing opportunities for our youth to be in positions of leadership.
- Supporting young people in traineeships.
- Creating mentorships.



OUR DIRECTORS



Uncle Rick Nelson

Uncle Rick is our Senior Dja Dja Wurrung Elder, so he is a cultural advisor for the community on a wide number of matters. He coordinates Kuli mob Men's Business where he takes men and boys out on country in a variety of different ways, hosts our Cultural Tours, attends the Meeting Place and is consulted on most programs and activities. Uncle Rick is also the lead consultant on the 'Welcome to Country Project' with the Mt Alexander Shire Council, a multi-media Aboriginal display for the local Information Centre.

Aunty Julie McHale

Aunty Julie coordinates the Meeting Place which involves a number of different aspects, some of which include arranging special presenters to work with the children, creating different stations/activities for the children to complete while at the Meeting Place. She writes and designs the annual program and arranges excursions onto country. She is a member of the Nalderun Cross Curricular Team. Julie creates units of work for schools with each unit having a strong focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander histories and cultures. She can present these units herself or provide them to schools for delivery. She offers discussions on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history. Julie is a member of all groups. Julie is an an Adopted Elder in this Community.

Aunty Julie is currently taking a well earned break so Pauline Bolch is standing in as a director. Pauline has been supporting Nalderun for 9 years, she is an amazing active ally who supports us including coordinating the Friends of Nalderun group, as a translator and is an all around asset to the organisation.



Aunty Paulette Nelson

Aunty Lette is a Dja Dja Wurrung woman and sister to Uncle Rick Nelson. The Nelson family have an unbroken and documented connection to this Country of the Mt Alexander Shire. Aunty Lette has vowed to carry on the Cultural work that was started by her father, Uncle Brien Nelson.

Kathryn Coff (Director and CEO)

Kathryn's role is to support everyone with their roles. She is the main mentor who assists with co-ordination of events. She also organises supports for Aboriginal students and administers activities, is the teacher at the Meeting Place, goes into schools to support our kids and teach Indigenous perspectives, coordinates meetings, writes submissions and directs inquiries to the most appropriate people. Kathryn is a mentor, is involved in Warrarrak business, Koori days and is a member of all groups. Kathryn also lectures, publishes works, speaks at conferences and consults in Indigenous Education and Indigenous Relational worldviews in Education. She is a fellow of Indigenous Fellowship for leadership, Neighbourhood House Victoria and Koondie Woonga-gat Toor-rong board and has commenced her PhD *Deep Listening to the wind; How to carve out an Indigenous Relational Worldview in Education*.



NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

We strongly believe that to ensure we are providing the best environment for our young people to grow up strong in Culture and connected to Country we need to also work with the broader Community, engage in two-way learning, and challenge organisations and individuals to look deeply at themselves and work for an anti-racist, decolonised future.

We work in partnership with a wide range of networks across the region and beyond, including:

- Mount Alexander Shire Council

Maryborough Education Centre

Castlemaine Health

Castlemaine Community House

Weenthunga

Neighbourhood House Victoria

Central Vicotian Group training

Dja Dja Wurrung Corporation

Bendigo Tafe

Gisborne Secondary college.

Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co Operative

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTAR)

Department of Environment, Land, water, and planning

North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Castlemaine Secondary College

All 15 Primary Schools in the Shire

Castlemaine District Community Health

Connecting Country

Loddon and Middleton Prisons

Reconciliation Victoria

Parks

Coliban Water

Bendigo Senior Secondary College

We work together with our partners in these ways:

- Nalderun Curriculum Team provides schools curriculum support and training on Indigenous Relational Worldviews and Pedagogies.
- The Welcome to Dja Dja Wurrung Country project with Mount Alexander Shire Council to create a multi-layered display experience, for locals and visitors to increase awareness of the values, stories and connections of the Djaara people.
- First Nations Maternity Advisory Group
- Friends of Nalderun are a group of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and organisations who have been supporting the work of the Nalderun since 2010.
- The Mount Alexander Shire Indigenous Roundtable is a reference group of community members and organisations to share ideas and resources, co-chaired by Uncle Rick Nelson and the incumbent Mayor.
- Self-Reflective Conversations for the broader community about white privilege, structural racism, decolonisation and allyship.



THE FUTURE



This year we had an incredible opportunity to purchase culturally significant land back for the Nalderun Aboriginal Community living on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. The 7 acre lot has been named Me-Mandook Galk for the magnificent grandparent tree which sits at its edge and will provide a base to deepen and grow roots for our existing programs, and to develop new ones - plans at this stage include an Indigenous Landcare Group, Bush Tucker gardens and knowledge sharing, and Indigenous Land Management courses.

Our Elders have long dreamed of a place of this significance that is their own, where they can feel safe and share their knowledge for the benefit of current and future generations. The land purchase was made possible by generous support from the broader community to our crowdfund campaign, a sign of the deep trust and connection that Nalderun has across the communities. We are currently developing building plans and have applied for substantial funding (\$1.6 million) to build a place of assembly.

We have done the work for the past 10 years, and see the sustainable meaningful change we are making. Our children are thriving, there has been a shift within the wider community and we need this to continue. With the land and building project, and now being a fully independent entity through incorporation we are looking for project and core operational investment partnerships to ensure that to our work can continue to support the local Indigenous Community, and the transformative social justice and decolonising processes we are a key part of.

If you are interested in supporting us or would like to find out more please contact: Marcelle at info@nalderun.net or Kath at ceo@nalderun.net.au

Further documents that can be provided on request include:

- Detailed financial information
- Media and publicity records
- Annual and Project Reports
- Nalderun Rule Book
- Strategic Plan
- Me-Mandook Galk development plans

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

TESTIMONIALS



"I've changed... I've become more social and approachable... [Nalderun] gives Aboriginals a chance of being proud of who you are."

(Aboriginal child, Primary School, participant of the Meeting Place and Homework Centre)

"I saw my students transformed. They felt connected. Learning about who they are as an Aboriginal person and what their responsibility is to the community. They now see pathways and futures for themselves."

(Aboriginal support worker)



ME-MANDOOK GALK BY KATHRYN COFF

For years the spirit of our Ancestors comes from Country. A seed is nurtured by her warmth and its thirst quenched by the falling rain.

As the days go on she becomes a seedling. And our Ancestors come and go from Country. Some die with honour and age. Some with pain with blood spilt on Country.

Still she grows, remembering all she sees. Country dissolves sadness with love. And now she is a small tree. And our Ancestors remind her, 'Don't forget me.'

New plants are grown, that she doesn't recognise. They feed a new type of human.

Still my Ancestors come up from Country and pass on with sadness in their hearts. They say again to her, 'Don't forget us.' The day will come when the land will return to us and our Ancestors hearts become strong.

And she stills grow and lingers on. Her girth widens with age and her branches stretch to reach the sun.

Where have my brothers and sisters from Country gone?
How can my nieces and nephews live on?
Then they come to the gate, her excitement and loves glows deep inside.
It spreads across the Country wide.
Our children come to dance and sing and play.
They even lit a fire and built humpys that day.

Our Ancestors are now smiling that we have returned. And she feels the fire of their Ancestors burning within. Never again will Grandmother tree feel lonely. She recognises her blood and those that came from the same Country.

The tide is turning, Country is healing , and the power of Country lives on.

Grandmother tree opens up wide to feel the rain on her branches and to feel the warmth of Country from the inside.
We are here Grandmother, to look after you, to be there until the end. We will protect you and honour you.

Me Mandook Galk we love you.

"I've had feedback that we have the highest attendance rates across the Shire for Koorie students. It's because we have such great engagement with our Koorie kids."

(Other-Australian Primary school teacher)

"I've just watched those kids blossom...their confidence and respect for their own culture has increased massively."

(Other-Australian parent)

"The Meeting Place is Home"

(Aboriginal Student)

"A lot of our kids are proud and thriving. They're learning to live through pain and trauma and still moving on ahead"

(Aboriginal Leader)

"To have the key Elders there, that shows the strength of listening to the Elders. They are holding the thing strongly and people are asking them what they know... There is a lot of modelling of respectful practice and protocol and reciprocity of the relationship across clans – how we can all be open to and help each other. That is so important."

(Aboriginal support worker)

"I think what they are doing here is really breaking ground for Australia. There is such huge healing through their work. Their generosity is unbelievable, they just keep showing up. I am so overwhelmed by their generosity to give and share"

(Other-Australian parent)

"We all benefit. The whole community. In the past 15 years I have seen people in the Shire change their attitudes towards Aboriginal people. Now they want to learn from us and be more involved in our culture. We are challenging perceptions of what an Aboriginal person looks like"

(Aboriginal adult)