

A large, square graphic with a purple background. It features a complex, woven pattern of dark purple lines. In the center, the words "Mia Mia" are written in a large, white, serif font. There are two circular, decorative elements in the corners of the square, one in the top-left and one in the bottom-left, featuring intricate, traditional Aboriginal patterns.

Mia Mia

Renter Newsletter
Edition II, June 2025

Mia Mia

**Aboriginal Housing Victoria
Renter Newsletter | Edition 2, June 2025**

We are thrilled to be sharing our second edition of Mia Mia for 2025 to our AHV Renter Community. In this edition, you will find our AHV notice board as we head into the second half of the year, important fire safety reminders, community news, exciting upcoming events on the AHV calendar, and a creative corner for big and little kids alike...

You're Invited! AHV's NAIDOC Family Day

Aborigines Advancement League | 10:30am-2:30pm | Thursday 10 July, 2025

Aboriginal Housing Victoria's NAIDOC Family Day is back for 2025! The 2025 NAIDOC theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," marks a significant milestone—50 years of honouring and uplifting Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience. We're excited to invite you to a day filled with culture, community, and celebration on **Thursday, 10 July, 2025, from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM** at the **Aborigines Advancement League**.

This year's event promises something for everyone. Enjoy live music and dance performances, explore arts and crafts, listen to powerful storytelling, and enjoy a free BBQ. Families can look forward to a range of fun activities including kids footy and netball clinics, face painting, and exciting prizes. We're also proud to feature a **youth stage where young talent from our community will shine**.

Headlining this year's celebration is **Gamilaraay artist Mitch Tambo**, along with **Indigenous Outreach Projects** and more exciting performances.

Keep an eye on AHV's social media and your letterbox for your official invitation. We can't wait to see you there for a day of culture, connection, and community spirit.



AHV Notice Board

Calling all artists and performers...

Do you know a singer or dancer who would like to be **booked as a performer**? Are you an artist who would like to have their works exhibited and sold in our **NAIDOC Art Exhibition**? Or perhaps you're interested in **hosting a stall** that promotes your work? We are calling all artists and performers to get in touch to be part of the festivities.

We also have a fund to help support our AHV artists in getting supplies to create your masterpieces.

Email

community@ahvic.org.au for more information .



Renter Satisfaction Survey

The AHV Renter Satisfaction Survey is now open – and we want to hear from you!

Share your feedback and help shape the way we deliver services and support.

You'll receive a physical copy in the mail, or a text message with a link to complete it online.

Complete the survey by 20 June to go in the draw to win prizes and gift vouchers.

All responses are completely anonymous and collected by an external, independent company.

Don't miss your chance to have your say – and to win!

Listening to Renter Voices

As a part of our ongoing efforts to improve how AHV listens and responds to renters and other community members, we recently finished another round of consultations.

Our recent consultations were held in Gathering Places, ACCOs and other community locations in: Broadmeadows, Echuca, Frankston, Geelong, Morwell, Ringwood, Shepparton, and Warrnambool. Improving maintenance, as well as the need for a lot more houses for mob, were key issues raised at these sessions. We also discussed the ways that AHV is working to improve our maintenance, and also how AHV works with other Aboriginal organisations to advocate State and Federal governments for more housing for mob.

We are also working on other ways that we can better listen, engage and respond to renters. If you have any suggestions, or you would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you.

You can give us a call on 1800 248 842 or email community@ahvic.org.au. Our Community Consultation feedback form is also still open by scanning the QR Code



Meet Ashlee!

Ashlee recently joined the team as a **housing officer in the West division** and is based in both Ballarat and Fitzroy.

Her background is in Community Housing where she ran specialised housing programs, and she also has experience working in the private real estate sector. She's passionate about helping people access safe stable housing and is really looking forward to contributing to the work of AHV.



AHV Garden Competition

Do you have a patch in your garden you're particularly proud of? Then send us a photo and you'll go in the running for a prize!

We have several Bunnings vouchers up for grabs.

First place wins a \$100 Bunnings voucher, and **second and third places** both receive a \$50 Bunnings voucher.

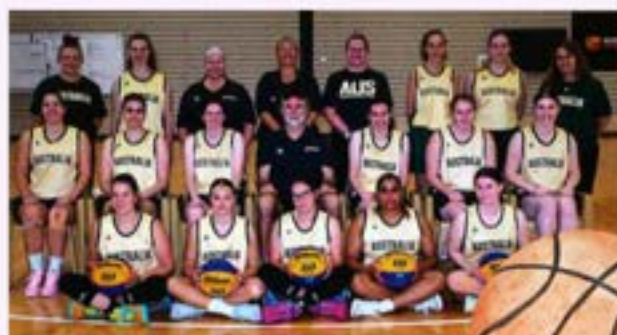
Email your entries by **July 15th** to community@ahvic.org.au to enter. Winners will be featured in the next Mia Mia!



Congratulations Alicia!

AHV Renter, Alicia B. has been presented with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to represent her family, community, and Australia on the international stage. She has been selected by **Basketball Australia** as one of only ten players to represent our country at the **Virtus World Basketball Championships** in Kazakhstan this June 2025. This is a prestigious event, and we are immensely proud of Alicia, who, at just 16 years old, is the youngest player to be selected for this honour.

Despite being the youngest, Alicia stands out as the tallest player on the team. She takes immense pride in her Aboriginal heritage and is committed to being a positive role model for her community. Alicia continues to excel academically while pursuing her passion for basketball, balancing her studies with rigorous training and competitions. This opportunity could mark the beginning of a promising career in the sport, and we are excited to see where her journey will take her.



Reminder to Renters

Please refrain from accepting offers for split system installations or solar panels from external providers. Unfortunately, AHV is unable to maintain or repair any fixtures or systems installed by third parties.

If you are interested in these services or require repairs, please **contact AHV Maintenance directly to ensure proper support and service.**

Annual Rent Review

A reminder that the **Annual Rent Review** for 2025 is currently in progress and the new rents will take effect on **15 September 2025**.

For any market rent increases, notice of this will be sent out early July and the details of subsidised rent or your rent payable can be expected in August. If you have not yet returned your documents, please ensure you do so as soon as possible.

If you are currently employed, please return your last 13 weeks' payslips.

If you haven't given AHV permission to access your income from Centrelink, please provide a copy of your Centrelink Income Statement or complete the Centrelink Authorisation form enclosed with the Annual Rent Review documents.

You can return your documents to us using the reply-paid envelope provided with the documents or via email at rentreview@ahvic.org.au

Digital Inspections for Enhanced Service!

We are thrilled to announce that our staff will be transitioning to a digital platform for routine inspections (home visits). This change brings several benefits:

- **Faster and More Efficient Inspections:** Our team can now complete inspections quicker, minimising any disruption to your day.
- **Clearer Maintenance Photos:** Digital photos will be directly uploaded to our system means more detailed images, ensuring that any maintenance issues are accurately documented and addressed
- **Improved Service Quality:** This transition is part of our ongoing commitment to enhance the quality of our services.

Thank you for your continued support as we make these improvements. If you have any questions or feedback, please reach out.

Reconciliation on the Rooftop



On 27 May, AHV hosted Reconciliation on the Rooftop at Bargoonga Nganjin, in partnership with Yarra Libraries. Special guest speakers included Yarra City Council Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sarah McKenzie, and Zoe Upton, Reserved Seat Holder for the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on the First Peoples' Assembly.

Guests were treated to a live performance by singer-songwriter Canisha and guitarist Daniel Jauregui Marquez. Daniel also broadcast the performance live on 3K'N'D with Uncle Charles Pakana commentating, bringing the event to a wider audience.



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 are now at your fingertips. **Learn more and login at myahvic.org.au**

Meet Marcus!

Marcus joined the Maintenance Team in February, with over 20 years' experience in Construction.



He's also taught Building and Construction in both TAFE and State schools. He's had the pleasure of meeting many of our renters at Community Consultations and looks forward to meeting many more.

Funding Announcement: New homes for Aboriginal Victorians



We are pleased to share the news that Homes Victoria has announced \$153.4 million in Big Housing Build funding towards more homes for Aboriginal Victorians.

That means that under the Homes for Aboriginal Victorians round, AHV will be able to build 191 new homes across the state.

A mix of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom homes, townhouses and apartments will be built across both metro and regional Victoria, located close to important infrastructure like transport, schools, services and employment.

This is a major milestone in the delivery of culturally safe, appropriate and affordable housing. Many of the 64 projects are underway, and we will be welcoming renters throughout 2025 and 2026.

We want to hear from you!

This newsletter is for our renters, so of course, it should reflect who you are and what you care about. We want to tell more of **your stories**.

Do you have a story to tell? Are you an artist, or do you have a business you would like us to profile? Reach out! We can't wait to learn more.

Message us on Facebook or send us an email to communications@ahvic.org.au



Community Cook Up

Recipes from the Community

Created in collaboration with our Renters in the More than a Landlord wellbeing program in 2018, we are bringing back our Community Cookup section! Featuring recipes from you, our renters.

TODAYS FEATURE: AHV RENTER AUNTY BARB'S, ROAST PUMPKIN SOUP!

Steps

Preheat oven to 220°C (180°C Fan force)

Ingredients List

- ☐ 2 kgs of butternut pumpkin
- ☐ 3 ½ cups of chicken stock
- ☐ 1 brown onion
- ☐ 1 tablespoon of honey
- ☐ 1 Cup of cream
- ☐ Olive oil
- ☐ Sea salt
- ☐ Sour Cream to serve

1. Prepare the vegetables:

- Cut the pumpkin in half lengthwise and scoop out the seeds.
- Place pumpkin halves cut side up on a baking tray.
- Add the whole peeled onion to the tray.

2. Season and roast:

- Drizzle everything with olive oil and sprinkle with sea salt.
- Roast for 55–60 minutes, or until the pumpkin is tender.

3. Blend the base:

- Scoop the roasted pumpkin flesh out of the skin.
- Add it to a blender with the roasted onion and 1 cup of chicken stock.
- Blend until smooth.

4. Finish the soup:

- Pour the blended mixture into a saucepan.
- Stir in the remaining 2 cups of chicken stock, cream, and honey.
- Heat over medium heat until warmed through.

5. Serve:

- Ladle into bowls and top with a dollop of sour cream.



Have a recipe you would like to share?
Email communications@ahvic.org.au
for your recipe to be featured !

Putting a freeze on winter fires

Simple home fire safety tips to practice this winter...

As the temperatures start to drop, it's important to take steps to make sure your family and home are **protected from winter fire hazards**. Home heating, cooking, clutter, and items like candles all contribute to an increased risk of fire in the cooler seasons.

Remember to **check your smoke alarms batteries yearly** and if you hear a beeping, the battery may need replacing. Smoke alarms must be installed and working, if faulty or not working **report immediately to Maintenance on 1800 248 842** (free call), and do not remove from the roof. Your six-monthly inspections are also important for fire prevention, as the AHV team can assess fire risks and smoke alarms.

Never leave open flames unattended such as cigarettes, candles, incense, oil burners or items that can start fires like lighters or matches. If smoking inside your home, ensure you never smoke in bed and that lit cigarettes are always extinguished properly.

Consider investing in a fire extinguisher or fire blanket for high risk areas, like the kitchen, so if a fire does start, you can act quickly.

Every family needs to develop a home fire escape plan and practice it. Your plan should include a designated safe meeting point that all family members know in case of emergency. **Remember, if your safety is at risk, ring 000 immediately.**

Complete Your Winter Fire Safety Checklist

Power and Appliances

- ☐ Heaters are off before leaving the house
- ☐ Power boards aren't overloaded
- ☐ Faulty appliances reported immediately
- ☐ Keep children away from power sources and practice fire safety

Smoke Alarms

- ☐ Smoke alarm batteries changed this year
- ☐ Smoke alarm tested
- ☐ Faults or concerns reported to maintenance immediately

Kitchen and Laundry

- ☐ Cooking or open flames never left unattended
- ☐ Tea towels and pot holders are away from the stove
- ☐ Grills, fans and cooking surfaces are free from grease and residue
- ☐ Lint drawer in dryer cleaned

Living Areas

- ☐ Candles, incense and oil burners are away from flammables
- ☐ Matches and lighters are out of reach from children
- ☐ Clothing, curtains or toys are away from heaters

Bedroom

- ☐ Never smoke in bed
- ☐ Electric blankets and/or heaters off before falling asleep



Community News and Events

Geelong, Barwon & Western Regions

Kadan Kawa Senior Program

📅 27 July, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

📍 Karroong Kanyool Youth Hub, 20A Forster St
For Aboriginal and/or Torres Straight Islander young person between 18-28 years old, this is an opportunity for the older young mob of the community to get together and spend time with each other in a positive environment. Email youth@wathaurong.org.au for more information

Wathaurong Aunities & Uncles Lunch

📅 8 July, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

📍 Booln Booln - 410 Surf Coast Highway
In celebration of NAIDOC week, we are hosting an Elders lunch for the deadly Aunties and Uncles in our community!
📞 Email comms@wathaurong.org.au to register

NAIDOC Indigenous Food Market

📅 5 July, 9:00am - 3:00pm

📍 Murran Hub, 143-157 Malop Street, Geelong
Experience a range of native tastes in this one-of-a-kind Indigenous Food Market at Murran First Nations Hub, celebrating NAIDOC Week.

Youth Yarn and Feed - NORLANE

📅 27 July, 12:00pm - 2:00pm

📍 Karroong Kanyool Youth Hub - 20A Forster St
For Aboriginal and/or Torres Straight Islander young person between 18-28 years old, this is an opportunity to yarn about what it means to live on Wadda Wurrung country and design the 2025-26 Community Sports Carnival uniform.

Wathaurong Gather Art & Connection Space

📅 Wednesdays, 2pm - 4pm

📍 Booln Booln Cultural Centre.
Community are welcome to drop in and immerse themselves in creating and exploring different art mediums.
📞 Contact Rylie on 0402755197 for more info.

Yoorrook's Walk for Truth

📅 Until 18 June

Yoorrook Justice Commission Deputy Chair, Travis Lovett will walk 370 kms from Gunditjmara Country in Portland to the Victorian Parliament on Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Country in May and June 2025. Join him on the Walk for Truth. More at yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/events

Wathaurong NAIDOC Flag Raising

📅 7 July, 11:00am - 2:00pm

📍 62 Morgan Street, North Geelong.
Mark the official start of NAIDOC Week and celebrate culture with Wathaurong with this annual flag raising event

Bendigo, Shepparton and North West Regions

Netball Victoria Koorie Clinic - Mildura

📅 9 July, 10:00am - 12:00pm

📍 Mildura Sporting Precinct, 684 Deakin Ave
An opportunity for mob to get together, learn to play netball & further develop netball skills. Visit vic.netball.com.au to register

North West Treaty Gathering - Robinvale

📅 2 July, 10:00am - 4:00pm

📍 Robinvale Senior Citizens Centre, 17 Robin Street
This Treaty Gathering is a chance for Mob in the North West region to get together, yarn with your elected Assembly Members, learn more about Treaty and have your say. Visit firstpeoplesvic.org to register


Nanyubac Mother's Group


📅 Every Wednesday, 11:00am - 1:00pm

📍 20 Rumbalara Rd, Mooroopna VIC
📞 For more info, contact Karlene - 0484 905 211


Bendigo, Shepparton and North West Regions

MVAC Women's Group


 Every Thursday, 11:00am – 1:30pm

 MVAC Hall

A chance to come together, share yarns, and build knowledge of culture.

 More info: Call Mariah – 0447 809 846.


Welcome Baby to Country - GOLDEN SQUARE

 8 July, 10:30am – 2:30pm


 Larnangurrak (Our Place), 43 Hattam Street,

Hosted by Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners, this special ceremony welcomes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies (0–3 years) born on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. Register via DJAARA


Rumbalara NAIDOC Community Market


 6 July

 20 Rumbalara Rd, Mooroopna

 For more info, contact Lana – 0429 143 254


Dharnya Day

 9 July

 Dharnya Centre, Sanridge Road, Barmah

Come and celebrate the strength, culture, and connection of the Yorta Yorta Nation at their annual NAIDOC Dharnya Family Day.

BDAC NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony


 4 July, 10:00am


 BDAC – 119 Prouses Road, North Bendigo

Start NAIDOC Week with BDAC's Flag Raising Ceremony and presentation of the Aboriginal Community Youth Awards. RSVP via BDAC

Gippsland


Netball Victoria Koorie Clinic – Morwell


 18 July, 10:00am – 12:00pm

 Latrobe Leisure Morwell, 45 McDonald St,


An opportunity for mob to get together, learn to play netball & further develop netball skills. Visit vic.netball.com.au to register

GEGAC – Welcome Baby to Country


 NAIDOC Week


 To be Confirmed

Welcome Baby to Country is a ceremony where Gunaikurnai Elders welcome children to the lands of the Gunaikurnai people and present them with cultural gifts.

 call GEGAC's Boorai team or Koorie Families team on [5152 0846](tel:51520846) or [5152 0850](tel:51520850).


South East Treaty Update @ GEGAC


 10 June & 8 July, 12:00pm – 1:00pm

 GEGAC Bairnsdale

Come yarn with Alice Pepper, First Peoples' Assembly representative, about Treaty negotiations and have your voice heard.

South East Treaty Gathering – Moe

 19 June, 10:00am – 3:00pm

 High Street Community Hub, 4 High Street Moe

This Treaty Gathering is a chance for Mob in the South East region to get together, yarn with your elected Assembly Members, share a feed, learn more about Treaty and have your say. Visit firstpeoplesvic.org to register

Metro Melbourne & Surrounds

AHV's NAIDOC Family Day

📅 10 July, 10:30am – 2:30pm

📍 Aborigines Advancement League

Join us to celebrate the significant contribution made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to our community, our families, our history, and our nation for NAIDOC.

VACCA's Windook Dads Group

📅 Mondays, 5:30pm – 8:30pm (ex. school hols)

📍 Nairn Marr Djambana, Frankston

A safe space for fathers, carers, uncles, and granddads to connect. RSVP: Barbara Ingram on 9108 3500 or barbarai@vacca.org.

Vic NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony

📅 7 July, Start time TBC

📍 Federation Square

The Victorian NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony marks the official start of NAIDOC Week – a powerful gathering of community, leaders and allies to honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and contributions.

Barrbunin Beek Mob Dinner

📅 14 June from 5:30pm – 7:30pm

📍 55 Catalina Street, Heidelberg West

A chance to gather, connect, and have a feed together.

VIC NAIDOC Children's Day

📅 28 June, 9:30am – 6:30pm

📍 Aborigines Advancement League

Family-friendly day featuring cultural activities, performances, and workshops for children.

Victorian Indigenous Tennis Carnival

📅 15 June, 12:30pm – 5:00pm

📍 National Tennis Centre, Melbourne Park

Tennis Victoria is delighted to invite First Nations young people, along with their family and friends, to join us for the inaugural Victorian Indigenous Tennis Carnival. For ages 12 – 18.

Metro Treaty Gathering – Glenroy

📅 20 June, 10:00am – 1:00pm

📍 Glenroy Community Hub, 50 Wheatsheaf Road
Yarn with your elected Assembly Members, share a feed, learn more about Treaty and have your say. Visit firstpeoplesvic.org to register

Confined 16 presented by the Torch

📅 On until 22 June, M-F 10:00 am – 5:00pm,
Weekends 1:00pm – 5:00pm

📍 Glen Eira City Council Gallery, Caulfield

The Torch is delighted to present the 16th annual Confined exhibition featuring artworks by First Nations artists whose lives have been impacted by the criminal legal system in Victoria.

VACCA Western Women's Group

📅 Thursdays, 10:00am – 12:00pm

📍 Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Community Centre

Connect with community and share culture. Open to all Aboriginal women living in the west. RSVP: vaccawestculturalevents@vacca.org.

Wurundjeri Storytime by Darebin Libraries

📅 31 July, 11:00am – 2:00pm

📍 Preston Library, 266 Gower St

Join us for storytelling sessions in Woi wurrung and English with an accredited Woi wurrung language teacher from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. RSVP via eventbrite.

Vic NAIDOC Awards Night

📅 20 June, 6:30pm – 10:30pm

📍 Aborigines Advancement League

Evening event celebrating outstanding contributions within the community.

Yoorrook Final Event – FED SQUARE

📅 18 June, 1:30pm – 4:00pm

📍 Federation Square

Celebrate the culmination of Victoria's first formal truth-telling inquiry led by First Peoples.

VIC NAIDOC March

📅 11 July 2025, Start time TBC

📍 VAHS, 186 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy

Each year, thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, along with allies, take to the streets of Melbourne to walk together in the spirit of truth, justice, and celebration.

Netball Victoria Koorie Clinic – Frankston

📅 17 July, 10:00am – 12:00pm

📍 Jubilee Park Stadium – 83-85 Hillcrest Rd

An opportunity for mob to get together, learn to play netball & further develop netball skills. Visit vic.netball.com.au to register

All events listed are free.

Kids Corner

Celebrate NAIDOC Week with this colouring sheet from **cleverpatch**.

illustrated by Indigenous Artist Belle Leonard.

