



MDAS
MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES

Kooti NEWS

DECEMBER 2022



CEO APPOINTMENT

The MDAS Board has announced the appointment of Darlene Thomas as Chief Executive, after a rigorous recruitment process, led by an independent Indigenous recruitment agency – Pipeline Talent.

In an indication of the reputation MDAS is developing as an employer of choice and a place of impact and opportunity, there were 17 applications for the position of Chief Executive and of those, Pipeline narrowed the field to a short list of 6 applicants, four of whom were then offered interviews.

The Interview Panel included highly regarded external professionals who brought with them great insight and experience and together they identified the candidate who would be best placed to continue to guide MDAS on its journey. MDAS was seeking someone who is values driven, and who will conduct themselves and expect of others, a high degree of transparency, accountability, integrity and innovation.

After careful consideration, the Board unanimously voted to accept the final

recommendation of the Panel, and of Pipeline Talent, to offer the position to Darlene.

The Board is excited that Darlene has accepted the role and they're confident she'll deliver great things both for MDAS and the communities it serves. Darlene has established relationships with key partners and stakeholders and has an enduring commitment to working to achieve better outcomes for our Mob. She has embedded community engagement and respect in all her work at MDAS for several years and has proven herself to be a stable and honest contributor. Darlene will continue to drive positive change for the Organisation and has the strength and support of her Executive, senior leadership and staff, to fulfil a shared vision for the future of our community and for MDAS.

AGM

During our 2022 Annual General Meeting, held on December the 17th, we presented our 2021-2022 Annual Report and the nominations for the Board were voted on by members.

As a result of this process, 5 new directors stepped onto the Board, filling vacancies created by exiting directors.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our departing directors, Jenene Murray, Pearl Dunn, Debra Chaplin, Shantelle Thompson and Damien Murray for their time on the Board. Their contribution has helped MDAS on its journey of rebuilding.

We welcome to the Board the following new directors:

- Jacinta Chaplin
- Rita Simmons
- Mark Morgan
- Marcus Horwood
- Robert Johnson

They join returning directors, Vicki Clark OAM, Thelma Chilly and Sharon Johnson.

Mildura

120 Madden Ave
Mildura VIC 3500
Ph: 03 5018 4100

Swan Hill

70 Nyah Rd
Swan Hill VIC 3585
Ph: 03 5032 8600

Kerang

9 Nolan St
Kerang VIC 3579
Ph: 03 5412 6004

FROM THE CEO

Darlene Thomas



I am really happy to launch our new-look community newsletter. From now on, you'll receive the Koori News every three months so you can catch up on all MDAS's news and achievements.

We will also use the Koori News to let you know what's on around our region and to celebrate the successes being achieved by our Mob.

There's no doubt that the last few years have been challenging - from the virus to the floods - our community has been under pressure but we have also seen how our community can rise up to support each other. It's important for everyone to know that there is help available and MDAS is committed to offering you the services you need, when, where and how you need them.

As an Organisation, we've made great progress this year and we'll continue to work hard for you in 2023. On behalf of everyone at MDAS, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a deadly New Year.

STAYING SAFE THIS SUMMER

Floods, bugs and viruses

While the Murray River in flood is amazing to see, it does bring with it many risks. Even for people who haven't been directly impacted by the flooding, there are some problems to be aware of. From water-borne disease and virus-spreading mosquitos to snakes and pot-holes, we need to be careful when we're enjoying our summer outdoors this year.

We're sure you've heard it said over and over again but please keep away from flood water. Don't let your kids play in it either. The current is surprisingly fast and could easily sweep away even the strongest swimmer. Submerged debris also poses a risk of injury; sometimes what you can't see can hurt you. And don't get us started on the diseases that can be spread through the water. If it's hot and you want to swim, don't risk making yourself sick - visit your local pool.

2022 GRADUATION

We would like to give a shout out to 19 amazing kids who have just completed their Year 12 studies at Mildura Senior College.

We know how challenging school can be at the best of times and this group had to survive two years of online learning and all the other stresses that have been caused by COVID-19 on top of everything else. Education is the best pathway to a better life and our 2022 graduates are on their way and we couldn't be prouder.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Mekhi Pappin
- Olivia Bulsey-McMillan
- Nikiah Dowdy
- Marika Kelly
- Charles Walker
- Madison Linklater
- Jett Charles
- Jayden Giles
- Tyler Lackman
- Tristen Rosebottom
- Marshall Smith
- Shakyla Laomahei
- Indianna Carter
- Connie Elze
- Shanika Kirby-Wilsom
- Kiera Nagyidai
- Shyanna Vandermerwe
- Rahni Williams
- Maythelma Handy

DEADLY
STORIES

SOME SAFE FUN FROM US TO YOU

Keeping your kids entertained over the holidays can be tricky and with the river and river trails closed, it's harder than ever. So MDAS has decided to help by giving out vouchers so you and your family can have a fun and safe summer:

- Kerang Swimming Pool: Family Season Passes
- Swan Hill Swimming Pool: Family Season Passes
- Mildura/Mallee Outdoor Pools: Family Season Passes
- Swan Hill Cinema: Tickets
- Mildura Cinema: Family Passes
- Ten Pin Bowling Mildura: Game Vouchers

(available in January)

Visit MDAS Reception to collect your vouchers from Friday 23/12 -Mildura, Swan Hill & Kerang

WHAT'S ON

MILDURA SWAN HILL KERANG

DECEMBER 31



MILDURA NYE CELEBRATION

Mildura Rec. Reserve, 6:30 pm

Fun for everyone with live music, kids' activities and two fireworks displays.

See the Kazoos live on stage alongside musical acts Brandon Kitt, DJ Tristo, Revive Band and the All Out 80s band.

Food trucks, jumping castles and light up glow novelties!

KERANG NEW YEARS EVE PARTY IN THE PARK

Atkinson Park, 6:30 pm onwards

Fireworks @ 9:30pm & Midnight, Live Band Y U Ask, Food Vendors & Kids Entertainment.

No Glass Allowed
BYO Chair

FREE Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) VACCINES

Call MDAS Reception to make a booking
Mildura 5018 4100 or Swan Hill 5032 8600

ELIGIBILITY:

ALL ATSI individuals above the age of 2 months who:

- Work outside for more than 4 hours a day especially during dusk or dawn.
- Live in temporary or flood affected accommodation.
- Are involved in support and recovery efforts for the floods.

SWAN HILL REGIONAL LIBRARY

The Swan Hill Regional Library are hosting a range of free activities these school holidays. Visit the Swan Hill Rural City Council website for more events.

Contact the library on 5036 2480 for bookings or more information
Please note: Children under 12 must be supervised by an adult.

GAMES GALORE

All school holidays
10am - 5pm (10am - 12pm Sat)
Age 5+

Challenge a friend or start a group with a range of fun games

LEGO FUN!

Wednesday, 4, 11 & 25 January
2pm - 4pm
Ages 3+

Complete one of the many challenges or enjoy free-play using your imagination to make a fantastic creation.

CREATION STATION

Mon - Sat during the school holidays
10am - 5:30pm (10am - 12pm Sat)
All Ages

Children can draw, cut, paste, colour in, complete activity booklets and make all sorts of creations!

SAND ART

Friday 6th January
2pm - 3pm

Ages 5+ Bookings Essential

Create a unique picture using coloured sand, sticky paper and your imagination!

VR POP-UP PLAY

Monday 9th January
1pm - 5pm

Ages 12+ Bookings Advised

Have some out-of-this-world fun with our PlayStation virtual reality headset!

MINECRAFT MONDAY

Monday 9th January
1pm - 5pm

Ages 5+ Bookings Essential

Join us for an afternoon of 3D blocking fun! Play in Survival or Creative mode, explore, experiment, create or break apart, it's all up to you

MAKERSCIENCE FUN!

Tuesday 10th & 17th January
2pm - 3pm

Ages 3+ Bookings Essential

Enjoy science activities, build with blocks, use a microscope to study microorganisms, discover how electricity works, weigh yourself with a see-saw, make a water whirlpool and play with magnets along with lots of other great experiments!

PLANT A POPPY

Thursday 12th January
2pm - 3pm

Ages 3+ Bookings essential

Plant a Poppy and give your flower pot its own face and personality!

COMING TO CINEMAS

For a full list of movies and showtimes please contact your local cinema

December 26:

I WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY
LYLE, LYLE CROCODILE

January 1:

A MAN CALLED OTTO

January 5:

MUMMIES

January 12:

M3GAN
THE AMAZING MAURICE
THE LOST KING

January 19:

THE BIG TRIP 2

JANUARY 9, 16, 23 & 30



RECLINK AUSTRALIA IN CONJUNCTION WITH YOUTHINC SWAN HILL ARE HOSTING

POP UP GAMES

ALL INCLUSIVE - NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED
ALL SKILL LEVELS CATERED FOR

RIVERSIDE PARK SWAN HILL

4:00 - 5:00 PM

MONDAYS FOR 4 WEEKS

STARTING JANUARY 9TH

BOCCE - KUBB - DOWN BALL - GIANT BOARD GAMES
FINSKA - FOOT GOLF - MUSIC - FOOD



THIS IS A FREE, YOUTH FOCUSED EVENT
DRUG, ALCOHOL AND VAPE FREE

RED CLIFFS COUNTRY MARKET

First Sunday of every month
from 9am -1pm
Ilex Street and Indi Avenue
Red Cliffs

SUNRAYSA FARMERS MARKET

January 7th & 21st
from 8am-12pm
Jaycee Park, Hugh King Drive

WHAT'S ON *continued*

DECEMBER 1 - JANUARY 31



Join the BIG Summer Read

It's easy! If you are aged 5 -18, simply register and then read your way through the school holidays!

REGISTER IN PERSON

1. Register at any Swan Hill Regional Library branch
2. Collect a BIG Summer Read reading log or starter pack (we have 100 to give away). Not all branches have starter packs available.
3. Read 10 books or read for 10 hours and return the reading log to receive a prize
4. To enter the Major Prize Draw, return a completed reading log before Tuesday, 31 January 2023

OR REGISTER ONLINE

Download the Beanstack app from App Store or Google Play or log into the BIG Summer Read Beanstack website. Log the books you read and complete the challenges – for the chance to win great prizes!

JANUARY 3 - 20

JOIN US FOR 6 DAYS OF FUN @ THE MDAS

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

JANUARY 2023

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE

For young people aged 12-16 years.
(Under 12 must be with a parent)

HURRY PLACES ARE LIMITED

Enrolments close Friday 30th December at 4pm!

Call MDAS on (03) 5018 4100
or email youthservices@mdas.org.au
for permission forms & further information

Tuesday 3rd January
11:00am – 2:00pm
Mildura Waves

Thursday 5th January
11:00am – 2:00pm
Mildura Ten Pin

Tuesday 10th January
11:00am – 2:00pm
Cinema Day

Friday 13th January
10:00am – 3:00pm
Cultural Activity Day

Wednesday 18th January
11:00am – 1:00pm
Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Class

Friday 20th January
10:00am – 3:00pm
Cultural Activities

JANUARY 26

First Nations SURVIVAL DAY EVENT

In honour of our past and the survival of our people we are holding a photo display of our Elders in the MDAS Hall.

Morning tea will be provided

If you would like your family pictures Displayed please bring them in to MDAS for front reception be copied or to send them via email to macrnswanhill@gmail.com

FOOTY FOR FUN

COME & TRY FOOTY 4 FUN



Experience Australia's most loved sport through AFL Victoria's FREE Footy 4 Fun events delivered across Victoria! A footy experience full of fun activities, modified games & memorable moments to take home with you!

Footy 4 Fun 'Come & Try' is an opportunity for kids aged 5-12 years to experience an introduction to the basics of football through fun activities.

WHERE:

Mildura Sporting Precinct

WHEN:

Thursday January 12- 10:00am



REGISTER HERE!

