With the much appreciated transitional support of the Mornington Peninsula Shire, bush foods and bush medicine as I believe that it is the only medicine for our people. Help others to heal also.

In my role as Family Services Support Officer, I am really looking forward to the opportunity to be able to come back to Willum Warrain to me is my home away from home. I was covered in goosebumps the first time I entered. To me, it is a place of family and healing. My connections which I am still exploring are to the Esperance and Hastings area of Tasmania. Like many indigenous women and men rebuilding their lives. We know from experience the importance of gathering place-based healing and what we can offer our sisters and brothers on their journeys.

Finally, it is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board, to welcome our most recent staff members to our friendly team, Justine Cooper (Aboriginal Family Services) and James Columbine (Men’s business and administration).

Yoway, Peter

**Meet Justine Cooper- Aboriginal Family Services Officer**

Hi everyone. My name is Justine Cooper. I am a proud Palawa woman of the Nuenonne language group. My connections which I am still exploring are to the Esperance and Hastings area of Tasmania. Like many members of Willum Warrain, I still have a part of my culture I am missing the pieces to.

Willum Warrain to me is my home away from home. I was covered in goosebumps the first time I entered the gates and that feeling still comes over me every time I enter. To me, it is a place of family and healing. In my role as Family Services Support Officer, I am really looking forward to the opportunity to be able to help others to heal also. I have a huge love of music, singing and yoga. I would love to learn more about music, singing and yoga. I would love to learn more about music, singing and yoga.

**THANK YOU**- Thanks to ‘Igniting Change’ for your generous donation to our community support fund.

**Bush Play Group Car Seats**

Willum Warrain has child seats for loan and taxi vouchers to help parents get their kids to Bush Play Group (courtesy of Golan Family Trust)

**Book in for a Willum Warrain Tour**

Did you know Willum Warrain run tours for kindergartens, schools, TAFE’s, University’s, agencies, community groups and more? Contact Willum Warrain for further details and see when you can book a tour.

**Friday Excursions**

You will notice that we have added some more excursions to our Friday program. We are looking forward to going to The Briars nursery and Coolart’s wetlands and homestead. All Aboriginal and non-Indigenous members are welcome. See our term program for dates.

**Keep Your Details Up To Date**

Here at Willum Warrain we are always trying to improve the way we communicate. Do you have an email address or mobile number you would like to add to your membership? We are hoping to reduce our printing & postage costs so please let us know if you would rather receive your information electronically and please make sure your details are updated.

**Volunteer at Willum Warrain**

Willum Warrain is seeking enthusiastic community members to donate time throughout the school term. We have a wide range of activities that require varied skills. Let us know what your skills are so we can match them to one of our programs.
A word from the President...

Maroomba bigi.

We are very pleased to send you our first newsletter for 2019 – it is going to be an exciting year for Willum Warrain.

Before I yarn about what’s ahead, I would like to reflect on some of the significant events from 2018.

We were very pleased to hold our 1st Welcome Baby to Country (funded by CAGES Foundation) with some thirteen families involved supported by Aunty Dyan Summers from the Bunurong Land Council and our own Aunty Jennine Armistead.

Another first was our 1st Elders’ Luncheon (supported by the Fellowship of Indigenous Leadership).

The Treaty Circle and Cultural Forum on Treaty with Treaty Commissioner, Aunty Jill Gallagher were deadly opportunities to learn more about the Treaty process unfolding here in Victoria and beyond.

And, finally, the feilas have completed the hub (Gandel Foundation) after a two year process involving 50 men, youth and boys. What an achievement and how much fun it’s been. Waking up sleeping culture is so satisfying, so good for our collective spirit.

We experienced significant revenue growth in the second half of 2018 and the future is looking very bright for our gathering place.

In terms of infrastructure, we extended our verandah, with some exciting site expansion options. We are developing our next Strategic Plan including a Master Plan component with the support of William Buckland Foundation, CAGES Foundation, Golan Family Trust (thanks to Russel Jaffe, William Buckland Foundation). We also extended our verandah, and office extension (DELWP).

We start 2019 with 11 staff in place as opposed to 5 last year at the same time (thanks to St John of God, Mornington Peninsula Foundation, Sydney Myers Fund, CAGES Foundation, Golan Family Trust).

With the support of Russell Jaffe, our long term pro-bono governance adviser, we are developing our next Strategic Plan including a Master Plan component exploring site expansion options.

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