



NGOONBI NEWS

Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation
Established 1975 as a Housing Co-operative 2/40 Coondoo Street, Kuranda.
Office hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm . Phone Contact: 40937177

NGOONBI RESPITE: A PLACE OF CONNECTION, CARE AND COMMUNITY FOR LOCAL ELDERS

For more than three decades, Group Social Support—known as Ngoonbi Respite—has been a weekly gathering place for Elders and registered Aged Care clients. Operating since the early 1990s, the service continues to offer a safe, welcoming environment where connection, culture and companionship thrive.

Each week, Elders arrive to the familiar comfort of hot drinks and morning tea, followed by a hearty lunch and dessert. The room quickly fills with conversation, laughter and the unmistakable joy of people who feel at home. Music, games and shared stories create an atmosphere where friendships are strengthened and new memories are made.

Ngoonbi's dedicated staff play a central role in the program's success. Highly trained and deeply committed, the team ensures every client is supported, well cared for and monitored for their wellbeing throughout the day. Their genuine warmth and professionalism help create a space where Elders feel respected, valued and safe.

Weather permitting, the program extends beyond the centre walls. Fortnightly outdoor activities take clients to beaches, scenic spots and places of local interest—offering fresh air, new experiences and a change of pace that participants look forward to.

After decades of service, Ngoonbi Respite remains a vital community hub, enriching the lives of Elders through connection, culture and care. It stands as a testament to the power of community driven support and the importance of creating spaces where people can gather, belong and thrive.



Activities



Happy faces. Photos supplied Ngoonbi



Ladies playing dominoes

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT CONTINUE ACROSS NGOONBI REGION

Ngoonbi continues its commitment to supporting local families and individuals through its Emergency Relief Program, providing essential assistance to those experiencing crisis. With an allocated budget distributed each week, the program offers practical help to individuals, couples and families facing financial hardship or unexpected challenges.

In addition to further support, transport services are available to community members who require assistance getting to appointments, shopping or essential activities. Bookings are encouraged 48 hours in advance, though urgent transport may be arranged depending on driver availability. Community members are advised to contact the Ngoonbi office (40937 177) directly for immediate needs.



Serving of food and ladies playing Bingo
Photos supplied Ngoonbi

SUICIDE INTERVENTION TRAINING STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

A Suicide 1st Aid Intervention skills training was held 14 May at Ngoonbi Respite, facilitated by CORE Australia (Community Owned Response to eliminating Suicide, www.cores.org.au) and co-facilitated by Beacon Strategies and Mulungu, with 15 participants attending. The full day workshop focused on building understanding, confidence and practical skills to support individuals who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts.

Participants described the training as both insightful and eye opening, gaining a deeper understanding of how body language, behavioural changes and even silence can signal that someone may be at risk of suicide.

Key messages throughout the session were:

- Use the appropriate language and questioning techniques safely and respectfully around suicide;
- Recognise the warning signs of suicide;
- Identify and develop personal self-care strategies;
- Seek help before a crisis occurs;
- Identify and promote protective factors;
- Identify how to support a person at risk to access appropriate services and to develop their own safety plan.

If in crisis contact:

- Your personal and professional support networks.
- Lifeline – 13 11 14
- Suicide Call back service, phone and online counselling support available 24/7
1300 659 467

The session reinforced the community's shared responsibility to look out for one another and to continue building environments where people feel connected, valued and heard.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

The following events are scheduled for early June, offering training, connection and community engagement:

- **3–4 June** - Mental Health First Aid Training Community members are invited to register for this two day course aimed at building skills and confidence in supporting people experiencing mental health challenges. Venue: Upstairs, Library Precinct Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm Registration: Contact the Ngoonbi Office
- **5 June** - Arthur Beetson Foundation visit in collaboration with Mulungu, will take place at Bartley Oval, Kuranda, from 11:00am – 3:00pm. The visit aims to promote wellbeing, cultural pride and community connection.

Ngoonbi remains dedicated to providing practical support and meaningful opportunities for the community, ensuring that individuals and families have access to the services, care and connection they need.

Ngoonbi would like to acknowledge our Creator Jah, Elders Past & Present, Djabugay Tribal Owners.



YOUTH LINK NEWS

FROM MURALS TO MUSIC VIDEOS: YOUTH CREATIVITY THRIVING IN KURANDA

Youth creativity, culture, and music continue to be front and centre at Youth Link through our weekly Crossroads Creative Development Labs, delivered in partnership with Desert Pea Media and The Crossroads Project (funded by the Queensland Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support). The sessions have grown into a powerful space for connection, expression, and community pride, bringing young people together each week to explore songwriting, music production, visual arts, and cultural storytelling in a relaxed, relationship-first environment. What continues to stand out is the way local artists, mentors, and community members consistently show up to invest in the next generation.

Local knowledge holder and creative Wally Brim has been leading visual arts sessions with a group of young people, supporting creative skills development and building confidence through collaborative artmaking. Alongside this, a group of young women have begun designing their own mural centred around the theme "Respect Country," featuring local native animals represented through a Djabugay-inspired art style. The project has been entirely youth-led, with participants choosing the theme and direction following discussions around caring for Country, identity, and community.



The centre also recently welcomed local Indigenous MC and rapper Kale Bardi from the hip-hop collective Water Streets into the creative development sessions. Recognised through Triple J Unearthed for blending hip-hop, funk, soul, and storytelling connected to place, culture, and community, Kale spent time yarning with young people about music, creativity, identity, and navigating the music industry as a young Indigenous artist from Far North Queensland.

Kale also shared parts of his creative journey, encouraging young people to back themselves, stay connected to culture, and use music and storytelling as positive outlets for expression and connection. For many participants, connecting directly with local artists creating nationally recognised work while remaining grounded in community is incredibly inspiring, highlighting the importance of local role models and culturally grounded mentorship opportunities.

The creative sessions continue building towards a community showcase event during NAIDOC celebrations at the Kuranda Amphitheatre on July 11th, where the young people's songwriting, music videos, and visual artworks developed through the program will be shared and celebrated with the wider community.

We also want to give a huge shout out to local artist Djawarray on recently taking out a Queensland Music Award - an incredible achievement and something the whole community should be proud of.

Over the weekend, the Kuranda Amphitheatre hosted a community gig celebrating Djawarray's success alongside a lineup of local bands and artists. A huge congratulations to the organisers, volunteers, performers, and the Amphitheatre team who pulled together such an incredible and wholesome event. The night was a powerful reminder of how strong, connected, and talented the Far North music community truly is.

At Youth Link, we continue to see how creative spaces can become important places of belonging, expression, and connection for young people, and remain deeply grateful to all the artists, mentors, Elders, organisations and community members who continue to walk alongside them.



Photos supplied Youth Link