



# NEWSLETTER

January - March  
2026



## Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service

Welcome to Durri Aboriginal Corporation  
Medical Services (ACMS) Newsletter

Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service strives to make a difference in the health outcomes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities it serves by providing a culturally appropriate and holistic primary health care service in the Macleay and Nambucca Valleys.

*Durri Good  
In Health*



# Newly Elected Chairperson

## Sean Phillips



Good morning everyone,

My name is Sean Phillips, I wanted to introduce myself to staff and the community, as the newly elected Chairperson for the Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service.

I want to start by saying how humbled I am to be here with you all in such a great service. This isn't a small responsibility. It's something I hold with a lot of respect and a lot of heart.

I know I'm following in the footsteps of some strong, deadly, culturally grounded leaders who carried this role before me. They stood up for our mob, pushed through tough times, and held our communities together when things got heavy. I honour them, and I honour the work each of you continues to do every day.

As I take on this role, my hope is to help steady things, build trust, and strengthen our communities — not just out there, but right here within our service. Our work touches people physically, mentally and emotionally, and I want to support you in the same way. You're the ones on the ground, doing the hard yards, showing up for our mob with compassion and strength.

I want to be someone you can yarn with. Someone you can approach without hesitation. I have an open door policy for our patients, community members, members and key stakeholders and look forward to hearing from you all and building the best possible relationship with our mob.

I'm looking forward to walking alongside you all, supporting you, and doing the work together to keep our communities strong, safe, and proud.

Thank you for this great opportunity,

**Sean Phillips,**  
Chairperson, Durri ACMS





# CEO UPDATE



Over the past few months, I have continued to be inspired by the commitment and care shown by our staff across all parts of Durri. From our clinic teams through to programs, corporate services and support staff, the work being done every day makes a real difference for our community.

Between January and March, our focus has remained on providing safe, culturally strong, and high-quality care, while also strengthening the systems that support our workforce. This includes ongoing improvements in clinical service delivery, workforce support, governance, and partnerships.

Across the organisation, teams have been working hard to respond to growing community need, while also adapting to changes in health service delivery, compliance requirements, and funding environments. I want to acknowledge the professionalism and resilience of staff who continue to show up for community, often in very challenging circumstances.

We have also continued to focus on quality and safety, ensuring our clinical practices, training, and internal processes remain aligned with best practice and regulatory expectations. This work is essential in maintaining trust with our community and supporting strong outcomes for our clients and families.

Looking ahead, we are focused on strengthening collaboration and Partnerships, supporting staff wellbeing, and continuing to improve access and continuity of care. We will also keep engaging with our partners to ensure Durri remains well-positioned to meet future challenges while staying grounded in our purpose as an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation.

Thank you to everyone for your dedication, care, and commitment to our community. The work you do matters, and it is seen and valued.

Paul Morris  
Chief Executive Officer





# Program Team Update



## Program and Event Highlights

January – March 2026

Over the past quarter, the Program Team has continued working in close partnership with community to deliver culturally informed, community-led responses to identified needs. Through consultation, planning, and collaboration, we have supported a broad range of wellbeing, prevention, and healing initiatives across the region.

### Saltwater Strong Surf Program

Delivered over two weeks, engaging more than 200 young people in culturally safe activities promoting confidence, connection to Country, and positive wellbeing outcomes.



### Water Aerobics Program

Commenced at Kempsey Pool with over 50 participants attending weekly. Due to strong participation and positive feedback, the program has been extended through to May 2026.



# Women's Healing Camp Goolawah Beach & Bush Retreat



A three-day community-led healing camp delivered following extensive consultation. Over 300 women and community members participated, highlighting the strong demand for culturally grounded healing spaces and the impact of collective planning and action.



## OCHRE RIBBON WEEK



Delivered our first Ochre Ribbon Day, bringing community together to stand against domestic and family violence and reinforce a commitment to breaking silence and supporting prevention.





**Durri ACMS acknowledge the dedication and leadership of the Program Team during this period. Their continued commitment to community engagement, responsiveness, and excellence in service delivery is contributing to long-term, generational change.**

### **Upcoming Programs and Activities**

- SAY Program – Youth Diversional Program
- Men’s Wood Carving Program
- Supported Playgroups (South West Rocks, Crescent Head, Kempsey, and commencing soon in Bellbrook)
- Ongoing Water Aerobics Program
- Weekly Dunghutti Galbaan Women’s Group
- Monthly Men’s Support Groups
- Wayikarr Marrubg Dalai Dunghutti Barri (Baby Welcoming Event) 22 April 2026 – developed following consultation with women at the Healing Camp

We look forward to continuing to partner with community and stakeholders to deliver inclusive, strengths-based programs that support wellbeing across all life stages.





# Dr Tracey Westerman



## Strengthening Community Wellbeing in Kempsey

In February, we proudly delivered two significant training opportunities in Kempsey focused on Aboriginal Mental Health and, Suicide prevention, and the wellbeing of those who care for our community. The Aboriginal Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training was delivered to frontline and community workers, building skills and confidence to respond effectively and culturally to mob when they are culturally unwell. This training strengthens community capacity, ensuring more people are equipped to provide timely, culturally safe support during times of crisis and distress.

Alongside this, participants attended the Managing Your Cultural Load This workshop focused on recognising cultural load, preventing burnout, and strengthening self-care. Attendees gained practical strategies and knowledge to support their own wellbeing, enabling them to continue their vital work within community.

We were proud to have the workshops facilitated by internationally renowned Aboriginal psychologist Dr Tracey Westerman.

Community workers are the backbone of keeping our communities safe, strong, and supported. Durri remains committed to investing in the social and emotional wellbeing of those who support mob every day. We thank all participants for their strong engagement and extend our gratitude to Dr Westerman for joining us on Dunghutti Country and sharing her knowledge.

‘When we look after our people and those who support them, we build stronger, safer paths to healing for everyone.’



# Dunghutti Galbaans Women's Group

What a beautiful day spent together at weekly Dunghutti Galbaans Women's Group

Today was filled with connection, laughter, culture, and support, with all the amazing women who came along. It's always so special to see everyone coming together to yarn, share stories, and uplift one another in a safe and welcoming space.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and made today so meaningful

If you missed out, we would love to see you every Monday! Come along, bring a friend, and be part of this deadly group of strong women.

**Connection | Culture | Galbaan**

**We can't wait to see you there!**





## Celebrating Leadership and Achievement!

A huge congratulations to Stuart Cohen (HR Manager) and Paul Morris (CEO) on successfully completing the National Health Executive Leaders' Program, facilitated by National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

This is an incredible milestone that reflects their dedication, hard work, and commitment to strengthening leadership at **Durri ACMS** and within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector.

Their participation in this program not only builds their own leadership capability but also contributes to stronger, more culturally grounded health outcomes for our communities.

**Well done, Stuart and Paul — your achievements inspire us all, and we can't wait to see the positive impact your leadership will continue to make.**





**Durri Senior Management Team** undertook Change Management Training as we prepare for the next phase of Durri's journey.

Strong organisations do not just react to change — they lead it with purpose, structure and clarity.

This training was an important step in strengthening our approach to planning, implementing and supporting organisational transition in a way that reduces resistance, builds resilience, strengthens partnerships and supports long-term success.

The focus on stakeholder engagement, communication strategies and team resilience reflects the kind of leadership needed to guide meaningful change and deliver strong outcomes for our community.

At Durri, we are committed to building an organisation that is future-focused, adaptive and ready for what comes next.

**#Leadership #ChangeManagement #OrganisationalDevelopment  
#DurriACMS #CommunityFirst #AboriginalHealth**





Our mobile  
screening van is  
coming to

**Kempsey**

Early April –  
Mid July 2026



Call 13 20 50

**67 Belgrave St**

Near the pool & skate park

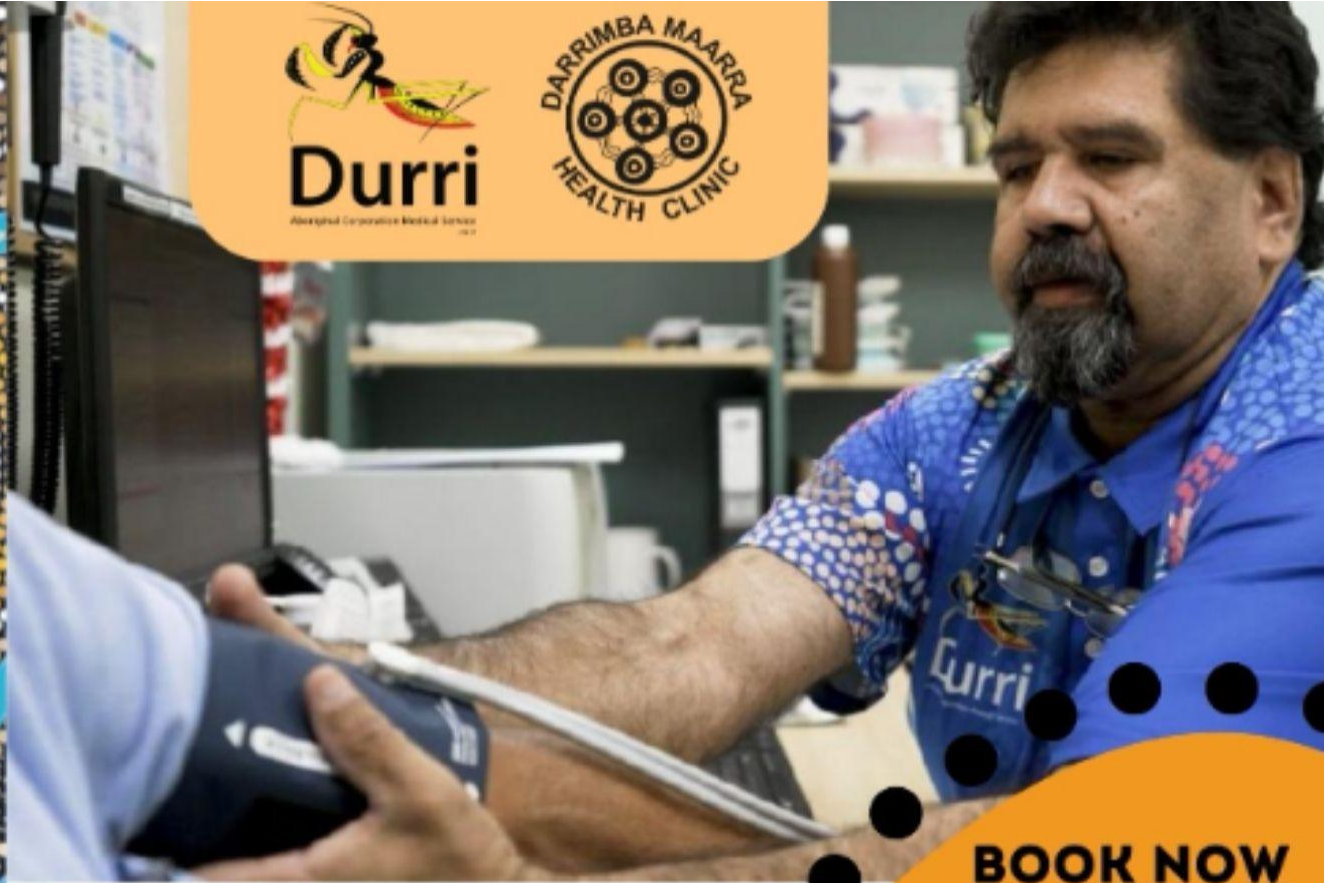
**KEMPSEY**



We recommend Indigenous women from 40 have a breast screen every two years.

Book your free breast screen online at [book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au](http://book.breastscreen.nsw.gov.au) or call 13 20 50.





# HAVE YOU HAD YOUR 715 HEALTH CHECK ?

**BOOK NOW**  
**DURRI ACMS**  
**02 6560 2300**



**DARRIMBA  
MAARRA**  
**02 6598 6800**

A 715 helps pick up health issues early, so we can stay active, connected, and doing the things we love. Looking after your health strengthens the whole community.

Come in, have a yarn book your appointment, and take the step that keeps our people strong—today and for the future.



**COMPLETE YOUR 715-HEALTH  
CHECK AND YOU WILL  
RECEIVE A \$30 GIFT VOUCHER**



# WAYIKARR MARRUNG DALAI'S DUNGHUTTI BARRI CEREMONY

*(Welcome Babies to Dunghutti Country)*

Durri ACMS is proud to host our first ever Welcoming Baby Ceremony on Dunghutti Country.

This sacred ceremony is about nurturing a deep sense of belonging to Country, Culture, and Community for our Dunghutti families. It is a celebration of our little ones and a continuation of a cultural practice that has been carried by our people for generations.

We are calling on all Aboriginal babies born between September 2025 and the end of March 2026, along with their families, to come and be part of this special moment.

This Ceremony honours our babies, strengthens cultural identity, and brings our community together in a way that is meaningful, healing, and grounded in who we are.



**DATE:** Wednesday 22 April 2026  
**TIME:** 10:30am – 2:00pm  
**LOCATION:** Goolawah Bush and Beach Retreat, Point Plomer Road, Crescent Head



**TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST CONTACT:**  
Simone Smith or Irene Weiss  
on 6560 2300





We are excited to share some important news regarding our Residential Rehabilitation Centre at Durri Healing Centre. We have officially appointed Warren Ahoy as our Project Lead, and Warren began their role on March 25th, 2026, working from our office at 2/33 Smith Street, Kempsey.

Warren brings a wealth of knowledge and valuable experience from across the health sector, along with exceptional navigation skills and leadership.

His primary focus will be on the Residential Rehabilitation Centre, but he will also be collaborating on AOD/Wellbeing-related projects throughout our footprint. This approach is designed to strengthen our partnerships and help build future pathways for the Centre. The establishment of this Residential Rehabilitation Centre is a major milestone for us all, and having committed leaders like Warren onboard sets us up to create lasting impact and further define our future direction.

In the coming weeks, we'll be holding community and stakeholder focus groups (dates to be announced) throughout the Durri footprint, covering Kempsey and Nambucca LGAs, and extending into the broader North Coast region. This will ensure we are engaging with our communities in meaningful ways and building strong relationships.

Please join us in welcoming Warren to their new role. If you'd like to share advice, guidance or connect, Warren can be reached at [warren.ahoy@durri.org.au](mailto:warren.ahoy@durri.org.au)

# *Warren Ahoy*




## *Project Lead*



# APRIL



# 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	Water Aerobics 2 Program <b>Healing Our Way</b>	PUBLIC HOLIDAY 	PUBLIC HOLIDAY 
PUBLIC HOLIDAY 	PUBLIC HOLIDAY 	7	8	Water Aerobics 9 Program <b>Healing Our Way</b>	10	11 <b>X</b>
<b>X</b>	Dunghutti 13 Galbaan Women's Group	14	15	Water Aerobics 16 Program <b>Healing Our Way</b>	Mobs Way to 17 Wellness	18 <b>X</b>
<b>X</b>	Dunghutti 20 Galbaan Women's Group	Playgroup 21 SWR	Playgroup 22 Crescent Head Men's Morning Yarn Up Wayikarr Marrubg Dalai Dunghutti Barri	Playgroup 23 PCYC Water Aerobics Program <b>Healing Our Way</b>	Mobs Way to 24 Wellness	25 <b>X</b>
<b>X</b>	<b>X</b> PUBLIC HOLIDAY	Playgroup 28 SWR Community Breakfast & Walk	Playgroup 29 Crescent Head Men's Morning Yarn Up Men's Monthly Group	Playgroup 30 PCYC Water Aerobics Program <b>Healing Our Way</b>	Mobs Way to Wellness	



# MAY

# 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Kempsey High School 715 Health Check Assessment Week					
3 X	4 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	5 Playgroup SWR	6 Playgroup Crescent Head	7 Healing Our Way Playgroup PCYC Water Aerobics Program	8 Clothing line project Mobs Way to Wellness	9 X
10 X	11 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	12 Playgroup SWR	13 Men's Morning Yarn Up Playgroup Crescent Head	14 Healing Our Way Playgroup PCYC Water Aerobics Program	15 Mobs Way to Wellness	16 Strong On Country Strong In Spirit Suicide Prevention Event
17 X	18 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	19 Playgroup SWR	20 Men's Morning Yarn Up Playgroup Crescent Head	21 Healing Our Way Playgroup PCYC Water Aerobics Program	22 Mobs Way to Wellness Women's Healing Camp	23 Women's Healing Camp
24 Women's Healing Camp	25 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	26 Playgroup SWR	27 Men's Morning Yarn Up Playgroup Crescent Head	28 Healing Our Way Playgroup PCYC Water Aerobics Program LAST DAY	29 Mobs Way to Wellness	30 X
31 X			Men's Monthly Group			



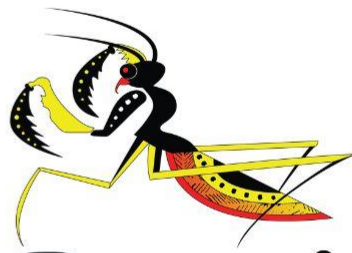
# JUNE

# 2026



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	2 Playgroup SWR	3 Playgroup Crescent Head	4 Playgroup PCYC Healing Our Way	5 Mobs Way to Wellness	6 X	7 X
8 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	9 Playgroup SWR	10 Playgroup Crescent Head Men's Morning Yarn Up	11 Playgroup PCYC Healing Our Way	12 Mobs Way to Wellness	13 X	14 X
15 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	16 Playgroup SWR	17 Playgroup Crescent Head Men's Morning Yarn Up	18 Playgroup PCYC Healing Our Way	19 Mobs Way to Wellness	20 X	21 X
22 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	23 Playgroup SWR	24 Playgroup Crescent Head Men's Morning Yarn Up Men's Monthly Group	25 Playgroup PCYC Healing Our Way	26 Mobs Way to Wellness	27 X	28 X
29 Dunghutti Galbaan Women's Group	30 Playgroup SWR	1 Men's Monthly Group	2 Men's Monthly Group	3 Men's Monthly Group	4 Men's Monthly Group	5 Men's Monthly Group





# Durri

Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service  
ICN 27

## **Durri Aboriginal Coperation Medical Service**

02 6560 2300

15/19 York Lane

Kempsey NSW 2440

[www.durri.org.au](http://www.durri.org.au)



## **Darrimba Maarra Health Clinic**

02 6598 6800

13/42 Bowra Street

Nambucca Heads NSW 2448

*Artwork by Jason Ridgeway*