

LINK NEWS



**THE LINK
CENTRE
COMMUNITY
HUB PROVIDES
FAMILIES WITH
OPPORTUNITIES
TO LINK WITH
THE
COMMUNITY,
BEYOND THE
SCHOOL GATE,
ENHANCING
EDUCATIONAL
ENGAGEMENT
AND
OUTCOMES.**

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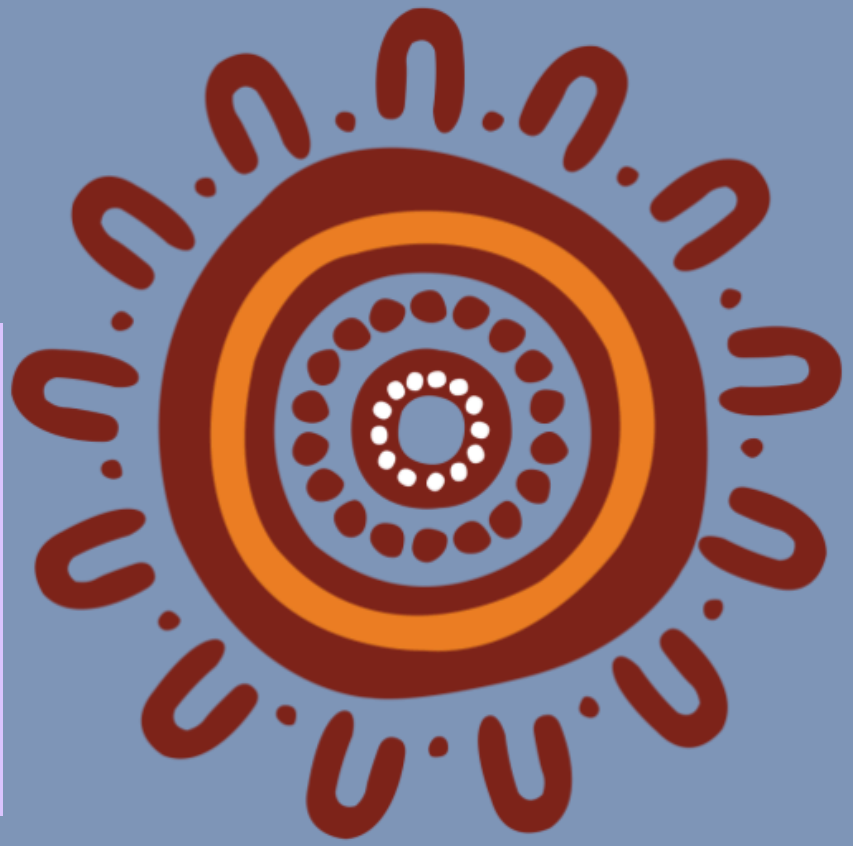
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FROM BUNURONG LAND

We gather here in this special place to continue our learning journey together. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which our school meets- Bunurong Land. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present, and acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We commit to building a brighter future together.



Young Mob have partnered with Essendon Football Club's Ganbu Gulin program. This is 10 weeks of immersing ourselves in culture and connecting. Our first session was gum leaf painting, facilitated by Janaya and Taylah.



RECONCILIATION WEEK



Wyndham Central College are acknowledging Reconciliation Week and on behalf of the RAP Management Group, we would like to thank Young Mob for representing our school this at Wyndham City Council's Flag Raising Ceremony. We were very fortunate to hear Uncle Kutcha Edwards who has been combining songwriting and activism since 1991.

What is Reconciliation?

Reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.

What is National Reconciliation Week?

A time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

What is our school vision for Reconciliation?

Our aim at Wyndham Central College is to foster reconciliation by promoting unity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other Australians within our school. We strive to create a safe and cohesive environment that ensures equal educational opportunities for all students and promotes learning for both students and staff.

We deeply respect, acknowledge, and celebrate the First Nations people, their heritage, and the cultural diversity within our community. Our goal is to create a supportive environment where every student can engage with truth, justice, and healing through reconciliation, incorporating the curriculum and honouring our elders and family stories. We are committed to empowering every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student to reach their full potential and feel a sense of pride and belonging in their cultural identity.

The theme for National Reconciliation Week is Now More Than Ever

A reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will —and must —continue.

Now more than ever, the work continues. In treaty making, in truth-telling, in understanding our history, in education, and in tackling racism.

We need connection. We need respect. We need action. And we need change.

Now more than ever, we need reconciliation.

-RAP Management Group



MARRUNG AWARDS

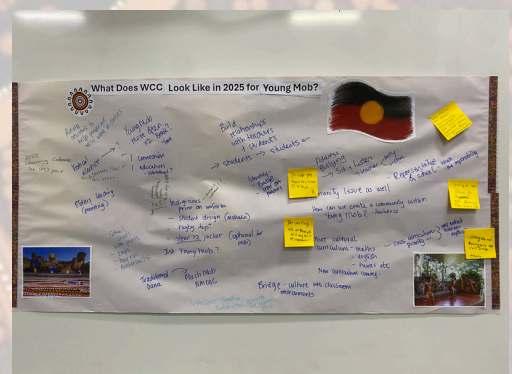


Wyndham Central College were the finalists for the Secretary, Marrung Awards for Department of Education. The Secretary's Marrung Awards celebrate the unique knowledge and skills that Aboriginal staff and allies bring to the department, to create better educational outcomes for Aboriginal students.

We were nominated for the Community Engagement award, which celebrates efforts made to build community engagement in learning and development. It recognises services that have worked in partnership and collaboration with Koorie people to find innovative ways to improve outcomes in local communities. Whilst we didn't get the big one we are very proud to be the only Secondary School in Victoria represented as finalists across all four categories. Thanks to Secretary Jenny Atta and Regional Director Chris Thompson for the opportunity. The work could not be done without our RAP Management group- Kristy Gray, Community Engagement Lead, Aunty Judith Dalton-Walsh , Principal Leanne Gagatsis and Marrung Champion Troy West.

FAMILY YARNING

We also had a family yarning circle where we worked with our Young Mob students and their family on reimagining our school in the future, There were lots of good ideas and even though the weather was terrible. we were lucky to have the night go ahead. Thank you to the families and staff that attended.



REFUGEE WEEK

Refugee Week is to promote greater awareness of refugees, the issues they face, and the contributions refugees make to the Australian community. 5.7% of our student population have a refugee status. We wrote WCC Refugee Stories and shared them everyday (attached to this newsletter), ate food cooked by Paw Ner Moo and Mili, taught languages, watched movies sharing refugee experiences and attended the Refugee Week celebrations held by Wyndham Community and Education Centre and the Wyndham Humanitarian Network.

The purpose of Refugee Week is:

- To celebrate the ways in which people from refugee backgrounds enrich our communities and culture.
- To educate the public about who refugees are and why they have come to Australia, and to understand the many challenges they face in doing so.
- To foster empathy and understanding and in doing so, encourage a safe and welcoming environment for people seeking safety in Australia.
- To enable communities and individuals to take positive action and stand in solidarity with people seeking asylum and displaced people in Australia and around the world.

We are partners with Foundation House to deepen our understanding of the refugee experience and identify our role in supporting recovery from trauma. [S](#)

Refugee Week 2024: Finding Freedom: Family

In a world marked by displacement and the search for refuge, this year's Refugee Week theme "Finding Freedom" – with a focus on family – encapsulates the profound journey of resilience, strength, and unity that defines the refugee experience. This Refugee Week, we aim to shed light on the transformative power of familial bonds as well as chosen bonds in the face of adversity and emphasise the crucial role families play in providing solace, support, and a sense of belonging to those forced to flee their homelands.



TOOL LIBRARY OPEN!

The Wyndham Tool Library was officially opened! A community led initiative of the Wyndham Park Community Centre with support from Council and Sustainability Victoria, residents can join the library for a small annual fee and have access to hundreds of tools. Thank you also to the State Government, Lendlease and Wyndham Park Community Centre for supporting this fantastic initiative, I'm sure it is going to be a much loved shared resource for our community.

Kristy, Paw Ner Moo and Hassan are Board members and play a big role in supporting the Community Centre to run it's best. Kristy attended the opening as President of the Board and was impressed with the local support provided. The space that will provide resources to the community and support the waste reduction in the environment.

The library currently has over 400 items available to borrow, including garden tools, woodworking and carpentry tools, artist tools, construction tools, camping equipment and more. The Tool Library is currently open on Wednesdays, with plans to open on Saturdays later this year.

Learn more here: <https://www.wyndhamparktoolibrary.com.au>

