



# 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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**TERM 1, 2024**



# NEW FACES AND OLD FACES

## Meet the Team!

Kristy (Community Hub Lead) and Paw Ner Moo (Family Community Worker) have been joined by 2023 Alumni Cooper Decker in the Cultural Coordinator position and Zaida Mansaray who is a fourth year Social Work student doing placement with us.

Stay tuned for a new member who will work with us in the African community.

Here is a cute picture of us during Harmony Week.



## FROM BUNURONG LAND

We are in the planning stages of developing our second Reconciliation Action Plan for the College, which is super exciting as we will be focusing on ensuring Indigenous perspectives are captured within the classroom.

We respect, acknowledge, value, and celebrate the First Nations people, our heritage, cultural diversity, and multicultural strengths. We will provide an environment in which we aim to support every student to engage with truth, justice, and healing through reconciliation via the curriculum and listening to our elders and our family stories. An environment in which every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student has the opportunity to achieve their potential and feel strong and connected in their cultural identity.



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, PRESENT AND EMERGING, AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE STORIES, TRADITIONS AND LIVING CULTURES OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES. WE COMMIT TO BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER.

# PEER TO PEER LEARNING



A Peer to Peer Network creates a supportive community for parents to share knowledge, experiences, and resources for navigating the education system. It fosters a safe and inclusive space where parents can seek advice, ask questions, and benefit from others facing similar situations. This network aims to help parents connect, gain insights on overcoming challenges, and feel empowered to support their children's educational journey effectively.



Our collaboration with parents from a refugee background involved exploring differences in educational systems between their home countries and Australia. Additionally, we delved into topics like women's health, life in Thailand camps and villages, and other relevant discussions.

Thank you to our partners at The Smith Family for leading the work and supporting the Community Hub to facilitate these sessions.

# INTERACTIVE GIVING



Our Interact Group kicked off the year with a bang, guided by the dynamic duo Kim and Graham from Werribee Rotary. President Hana (Year 12) made sure our book drive treasures were all packed up and headed for the Bahay Ni San Jose Orphanage in the Philippines. Stay tuned for a thrilling fundraiser coming your way in Term 2!



## COMPUTER CLASS

Our grown-up learners are on fire this year, kicking it up a notch with their learning game! Huge shoutout to Wayne from Wyndham Community and Education Centre for making computer classes the talk of the town!

## ENGLISH CLASS



English classes are becoming more challenging yet enjoyable as parents engage in practicing their language skills with each other. The increased confidence in our students is evident. Kudos to our teacher Claudette for creating a supportive learning environment.



# SAY IT WITH YOUR CHEST!

A student group is collaborating with the Royal Children's Hospital to strengthen their sense of connection and confidence in self-expression. Focused on podcast development, they are independently deciding on their activities and communication methods. Under the guidance of external facilitator Lydia Tesema, students including Spencer Vanu, Simon Futi, Hine Moeke, Tanika Fry, Jessica Cooper, Malia Tufunga, Funaki Lavalu, Tay Taukatelata, Angela Williams, Mariyah Kelly, and Layarna Gadza are exploring these concepts to gain industry insights. Their achievements will be presented at the Wyndham Healthy Living Program at the Youth Resource Centre.

The Festival for Healthy Living (FHL) is a distinctive mental health promotion initiative by the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Mental Health. It aims to enhance mental health and well-being in children, youth, and families by empowering schools, artists, communities, and local government to introduce arts-based mental health activities. Through arts workshops and cultural events, participants can creatively express themselves to:

- Enhance self-esteem, resilience, and problem-solving skills.
- Promote mental health awareness, combat stigma and discrimination.
- Foster inclusion, social cohesion, and a sense of belonging.
- Support arts and culture as a long-term well-being approach.

The group will continue their podcast series, "Say It With Your Chest," throughout the year. Congratulations to these outstanding students!



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

At Wyndham Central College, we marked International Women's Day by promoting inclusivity to empower all students and families, emphasizing the significance of gender equality within our learning community. Here are some of the activities we organized to honor and celebrate the remarkable women in our community:

- Conducted a staff session in partnership with IPC Health to raise awareness about menopause.
- Ongoing Share the Dignity collection to combat period poverty – there's still time to contribute!
- SHERO Wall display where our exceptional students shared inspiring notes about their role models.
- Utilized PowerPoint slides during assemblies to educate students about the importance of the day.
- Introduced "Who Inspires You at WCC" Staff Pigeonhole Notes to foster positive interactions among staff members.
- Hosted a grand morning tea to honor women.

Special thanks to Georgie Low, our WCC Australian Education Union Victoria Women's Officer, for her dedicated efforts throughout the week in organizing these events and rallying us together to prioritize women's initiatives in our workplace.

Happy International Women's Day to all individuals who identify as women; I trust you had an amazing day!



## HARMONY WEEK

We marked a significant week for our diverse community, providing an opportunity to reflect and advocate on a global scale.

Harmony Week, led by the Department of Home Affairs, leads national celebrations to recognize diversity and inclusion activities. This week aligns with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The focus is on honoring Australian multiculturalism, promoting inclusivity, respect, and a sense of belonging for all Australians, regardless of their cultural or linguistic backgrounds.

At Wyndham Central College, with over half of families speaking English as a second language, our week-long program featured:

- Henna application
- Ochre painting
- African drumming sessions
- Education on traditional Karen wrist tying ceremonies
- Mobile podcast interviews
- Orange-themed booth
- Traditional Karen dance performances

Visit the next page to see the exciting activities!

## RAMADAN MUBARAK

We have also been showing support to our young individuals as they observe Ramadan, a significant month of fasting in the Muslim faith. During Ramadan, practicing Muslims fast from dawn until dusk, which is around 6am to 8pm, abstaining from both food and water. This celebration often includes late-night prayers, with individuals staying up past midnight for prayer and waking around 5am to eat before dawn. The Ramadan period in 2024 is expected to start from the evening of Saturday, 9th March 2024, and conclude on Monday, 8th April 2024. Since Ramadan follows the lunar calendar, its dates vary each year. We commend our Cultural Leaders Ali and Abdillahi for introducing and leading the prayer group. They believe that such a group can enhance our school's diversity and inclusivity, in line with our school's values of respecting all faiths and cultures.



