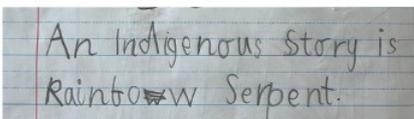
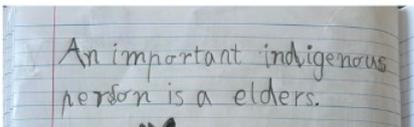
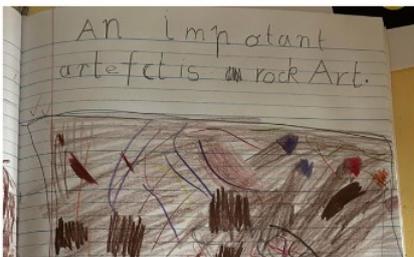


Wimmera South West
Karratpeeten
(Message Stick)
Indigenous Newsletter
June 2024



Port Fairy Consolidated Primary School

Reconciliation Week at PFCS



At Port Fairy Consolidated school, we've embraced Reconciliation Week. Our students have delved into the profound significance of Sorry Day, gaining a deeper understanding of reconciliation through meaningful activities and discussions.



PORT FAIRY
CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL

Belonging - Learning - Respect

Grasmere Primary School

Excursion to BIOCats: a day of fun and learning



Students from Grasmere Primary School recently had the opportunity to attend the BIOCats program in Geelong, a unique educational experience that blends physical health and STEM enquiry, specifically designed for students in Grades 5 and 6. Since its inception in 2012, BIOCats has engaged over 14,000 students, making it a cornerstone in promoting science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health through the lens of Australian Rules football.

A Day in the Life of an Elite Athlete

Hosted at the Deakin Cats Community Centre, the program immerses students in the daily routine of an elite athlete. Bailey and Scarlett from Grasmere Primary School were among the lucky participants and had an unforgettable experience.

A big thank you to the Deakin Cats Community Centre and everyone who made this excursion possible. The students of Grasmere Primary School are already looking forward to applying what they learned and continuing their journey in both sports and education.

Bailey and Scarlett had a fantastic day at BIOCats, thanks to the effort and dedication of everyone involved in organizing this program. The excursion provided a perfect blend of physical health and STEM education, making it a memorable and enriching experience for all the students.



Grasmere Primary School

HOW THE PLATYPUS CAME TO BE WITH THE 4/5'S AND MS KELLY

In the Dreamtime, all creatures believed they belonged to the most important group. The animals, birds, and water creatures each held their own exclusive meetings, convinced of their unique superiority: animals valued their fur and ability to traverse land, birds prized their ability to fly and lay eggs, and water creatures cherished their swimming prowess and extensive aquatic domains. Amidst this, they all realized that the shy Platypus did not belong to any group, leading each faction to seek his membership.

The animals, birds, and water creatures approached Platypus, inviting him to join their respective groups. Platypus, unsure, consulted his friends and family but received no guidance. After much contemplation, Platypus gathered all the creatures and announced his decision. He chose not to join any group, explaining that he embodied qualities from all groups: he had fur and enjoyed running like the animals, his wife laid eggs and they both had beaks like the birds, and he lived by and explored water like the aquatic creatures. Platypus declared that everyone is special in their own way without needing to belong to a specific group. This wisdom earned Platypus great respect and solidified his special status among all creatures.



Timboon P-12

Indigenous Studies at Timboon P-12 School: A Year of Learning and Creativity

This year, the P-2 Indigenous Studies program at Timboon P-12 School has been a vibrant and enriching experience for all our students. We have delved into a wide array of activities and topics, celebrating and learning from the rich cultural heritage of Indigenous Australians.

Musical Journey

Music has played a central role in our Indigenous Studies this year. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning various Indigenous songs, which not only brought us closer to the culture but also added joy to our daily lessons. Early in the year, we composed our own acknowledgment song, which we now proudly sing at the start of every lesson, setting respectful and engaging tone. Another lesson involved collecting materials from around our school to make musical instruments. To accompany our Indigenous songs. As we explored outside, the students discovered sticks that produced a satisfying clap when struck together, perfectly mimicking traditional clapsticks. We experimented with rasping a stick against rough bark, producing a rhythmic scratching sound that added a unique texture to our music.

Dead leaves were gathered and rubbed together, creating a soft, crunching sound reminiscent of rustling underbrush. We also found seed pods that, when shaken, produced a gentle rattling noise, adding a dynamic layer to our compositions. This hands-on experience not only enriched our musical performances but also deepened our appreciation for the resourcefulness and creativity of Indigenous musical traditions, showing us how nature itself can be a beautiful instrument. We even tried our hand at playing the gum leaf, with one talented boy in year 4 showcasing beautiful melodies.



Timboon P-12

Creative Crafts

Our creativity was not limited to music. Students had the opportunity to create their very own talking sticks out of wool, beads and feathers. One memorable lesson was when we wandered around our school grounds, immersing ourselves in nature as we searched for items to personalise our talking sticks. The students eagerly collected gumnuts, feathers, flowers, and seedpods, carefully selecting each item to add character and significance to their creations. We thought about how these elements would engage the senses, choosing fragrant flowers to make our talking sticks smell pleasant, soft feathers and textured seedpods to enhance their tactile appeal, and gumnuts that would produce a gentle rattle when shaken. These are now sitting in their book boxes and will be used in the classroom as a respectful tool for communication, ensuring every voice is heard.

Exploring Bush Tucker

One of the other highlights of our year has been researching and learning about different types of bush tucker. Students discovered the diverse and nutritious foods that have been used by Indigenous Australians for thousands of years. Some of the fascinating bush tucker we explored included:

- **Kakadu Plum:** Known for its high vitamin C content, this fruit has been a staple in Indigenous diets.
- **Wattleseed:** Used for its nutty flavor, wattleseed can be ground into flour for baking.
- **Bush Tomato:** A small, tangy fruit that can be eaten raw or dried.
- **Lemon Myrtle:** With its refreshing lemony flavor, it is often used in teas and cooking.

As part of our hands-on learning, students also created witchetty grubs out of air dry clay, bringing to life one of the iconic bush foods.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and participated in our Indigenous Studies program so far.



Clontarf Academy

LEADERSHIP/SPORT

clontarf.org.au

Warrnambool Academy
May 2024
Luke McInerney and Tom Sullivan



clontarf
foundation

Rotary Club Q&A

On a frosty Warrnambool morning, Jyah Chatfield and Richie Glover were invited to the Day Break Rotary Warrnambool headquarters for an early morning breakfast and a Q&A session. Both Jyah and Richie displayed maturity beyond their years, talking individually about the value of the program and the positive impact it has had during their schooling.

They also emphasized the significant importance it has played in gaining employment outside of their schooling. The Rotary Club shares a desire to connect with others to address the challenges affecting our community and communities around the world. They have been strong supporters of Warrnambool Clontarf and continue to work closely as a partner, helping fund important items in our academy room.

The growth and sense of pride the boys showed while presenting to the Warrnambool Rotary Club today speaks volumes about their willingness to be a part of the program over the course of their schooling.



Vic Cup

Warrnambool Clontarf travelled to Ballarat to take on the best footy players Vic Clontarf had to offer. The energy leading into the carnival was high, with the boys displaying a healthy level of competitiveness throughout our afternoon activity.

Kicking off the tournament, teams on each oval formed the shape of a big V, a tradition when two Victorian teams meet. We continued the form from our early game picking up a couple of wins on the trot, taking some confidence into our clash with another undefeated side in St Pats/Swan Hill.

With shorter game time than usual, the game started at a high intensity with the ball moving up and back through the middle at high pace, with plenty of skill and speed to match. In what was a see-sawing battle right up until the final minutes, the Warrnambool Wanderers inserted one final powerful burst on the game to run away 3 goal winners and seal the championship trophy in their name for the 2024 Clontarf Victoria Cup.

The Clontarf spirit across the day was next level. We saw boys changing teams to help out, boys celebrating the little wins in each other's efforts and boys showing a high level of appreciation for one another off the field. We thank the boys for their brilliant efforts across the 2-day camp making the Vic Cup a memorable one.



Clontarf Academy

LEADERSHIP

YEAR 8/9

CAPE OTWAY CAMP

clontarf.org.au

Warrnambool Academy
March 2024
Written by Tom Sullivan



clontarf
foundation

Breathing In The Diverse Environments Of The Land

The Year 8 and 9 boys ventured along the Great Ocean Road with the destination being Cape Otway. On our Journey to Cape Otway we stopped to admire the beauty of the Twelve Apostles, which was an unforgettable sight, with the boys feeling a spring of awe whilst among the limestone rock formations. Our stop was Maits Rest Rainforest Walk, where we got to immerse ourselves in ancient rainforests, with towering trees and ancient ferns which almost made time stand still teaching us to slow down in everyday life.

After arriving at our destination, Bimbi Park in Cape Otway, we were off again this time to visit the oldest surviving lighthouse on mainland Australia. Parching over towering sea cliffs the boys enjoyed some magnificent sea views while taking in some history that the lighthouse grounds had to offer. As we continued on our tour we made our way up to the whale watching platform and with some very sharp and focussed eyes the boys spotted a whale injecting some extra excitement into the afternoon. We finished off day one with some afternoon activities which included mini golf and table tennis and enjoyed a BBQ to finish off the night.

Day 2 kicked off with a cultural education program run by Richard Collopy. We started the tour with a short drive to Parker River where we commenced the educational walk with a steep descent. We made our way to the bottom arriving at a spectacular beach on a calm winters day. Richard chatted to the boys during our three-hour walk providing an in-depth understanding of his culture including its history, traditions and customs. We explored many parts of the seaside walk, enjoying some fresh seafood and plants along the way. The boys enjoyed the many stories Richard shared during our walk, inspiring greater appreciation.

After lunch we took off for our next adventure, visiting the Tree Top Flight Walk located in the heart of the Otway's. With the contrasting environments from the sea to the forest, the boys commenced the walk on the 30-metre high suspended walkway amongst the beauty of the unique rainforest, breathing in the many diverse environments of the land. To finish off the walk the boys climbed a 50m-high spiral tower showing nerves of steel at the top of the rainforest, a truly exhilarating experience.

On our final day of activities, we ventured to Apollo Bay teaming up with Quinn and the Apollo Bay Surf Kayak crew who firstly ran us through the safety and dangers of the water as well as teaching us the basic movements of kayaking on the beach front. Once the boys hit the water, there was no holding back and no sign of fear, with the boys tackling the waves front on to get over the back and out into the open water, which included some serious wipeouts in the process. The boys finished off with a kayak race into the shore with the boys catching some cracking waves on the way in. It was a great bonding session for the boys with plenty of smiles and fun along the way.

We thanks the boys for their brilliant efforts on the camp, leaving everyone involved refreshed and ready for the second half of 2024.



Camperdown College

National Reconciliation Week at the Junior Campus, Camperdown College

Last week, National Reconciliation Week was proudly acknowledged at the Junior Campus through the exploration of Australia's shared history, culture and achievements, with the goal of supporting all individuals to be harmonious and kind contributors to our local and wider community.

In our weekly Library sessions, students explored National Sorry Day which marked the beginning of National Reconciliation Week. Students discussed our nation's history relating to the Stolen Generations and each constructed a native hibiscus flower as the official symbol for this day, with these hibiscus flowers adorning our front entry.

Each day was started with a beautiful picture story book that explored our First Nations peoples' history and culture, stimulating discussions and clarifications to ensure informed and important messages were shared with our students.

At lunchtimes throughout the week, our School Pride Leaders Onaya Senarath and Fletcher Gibbins, along with our Art Leaders, Zhai-Krish Deposoy and Zander Horan, led activities that focussed on our First Nations people's flags: the Aboriginal flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag. Sticks from our local bush areas were wrapped in wool representing the colours in the flags, whilst discussions about the importance of the flags and what their colours and symbols represent were facilitated. These pieces of art are proudly on display in our flowerpots in full view of our flags.

On Torres Strait Islander Flag Day, which also occurred during National Reconciliation Week, students used chalk to reconstruct the flag on our external bricks, reinforcing their understanding and recognition of the importance of this flag which only began flying in our yard in 2023.

To mark the end of National Reconciliation Week, we drew our raffle which saw our beautiful Emma Stenhouse print presented to its new owner, Year 1 student Xanthi Harris. This print was raffled over the past three weeks with money raised going towards another First Nations cultural activity later in the year with the goal of furthering our awareness and understanding in this area. Emma Stenhouse kindly donated this print to our school in 2023 after working with our students to create a mural that represents the beautiful lands we call Camperdown.



Camperdown College



Lismore Primary School

Hi I'm Jackson Rumler for reconciliation week did a variety activities to celebrate the week. In art, we did dot paintings on gum leaves. We made some serpents that coiled up they were all cool and colourful, some used paint some used pencils and texter. We have been making posters and slide shows about reconciliation and we all enjoyed learning about reconciliation week.

We presented the best three slide shows and posters at assembly. At assembly we used a special national anthem to celebrate reconciliation. Then Friday, we coloured in hands and wrote what we could improve on in the community and we will display in the school, that's all we have done this week.



BWCS, Penshurst & Macarthur Primary Schools

Reconciliation Week

For Reconciliation Week we created a Collaborative display from our Tappoc Cluster (BWCS, Penshurst & Macarthur) in MARC Library sessions using hand templates and aboriginal symbols. We read and explored the book *We Are Australians* and had rich discussions about National Sorry Day and what reconciliation week is all about.

Below are some photos



Warrnambool Primary School



Warrnambool Primary School Term 2, 2024

BioCats excursion

Our senior students thoroughly enjoyed the BioCats STEM excursion! It was a fun and educational day and a great chance to mix and make friends from other schools. A total of 35 students attended from 8 primary schools.



Warrnambool Primary School

Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week 2024

This year, after learning about and discussing Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week in classrooms, each student contributed to a huge display in our breezeway. As you can see, it looks amazing! Leaders spoke at our assembly.



Warrnambool West Primary School



Now More than Ever



FACES OF OUR FUTURE



Warrnambool West Primary School

On Saturday afternoon May 25th students and staff headed down the highway to GMHBA Stadium as part of AFL indigenous round. Forming a guard of honour for Tom Hawkins as he ran onto the ground, setting a new club record and playing an Auskick game at half time made the experience even more special. Thanks to our wonderful staff for giving up their Saturday to attend with the students.



Koorie Aspirations Day Warrnambool Area Schools.

Thank you to the following businesses and organisations for their support at the Koorie Aspirations Day on Friday 7th June:

Warrnambool and District Football Umpires Association
Brophy Family & Youth Services
WestVic Staffing Solutions
SWTAFE
Beyond Bank
WestVic Dairy
Deakin University School of Medicine
Melbourne University
Catholic Care Victoria
AgFutures
Australian Catholic University
Richard Pritchard and Jordan Gould (Wylah the Koorie Warrior)
Ambulance Victoria
Saputo
Madden's Lawyers
University of South Australia - Mt Gambier Campus

Wannon Water
Skills and Jobs Centre
Warrnambool Bus Lines
Gunditjmara
South West LLEN
Southern Stay
Federation University
Deakin University
Headspace (Brophy)
South West Healthcare
La Trobe University
Powercor
Monash University
Kirrae Health Service Inc
Xavier McInerney Bricklaying
Head Start

A big thankyou to our panel of four who all spoke so well and had total engagement from the students and staff in attendance, Allan Miller, Jayana Miller, Danny Pearson & Emily Fella.

A number of other secondary school from the southwest area were able to join Warrnambool College at the event.

Thank you to Matt Porter of the Neil Porter Foundation for arranging the participation of these businesses and organisations. Thank you to Beyond the Bell for their support, sponsorship and guidance.

A final thanks to the local Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESO team) for their vision and passion in supporting our young Koorie students to 'see' the endless opportunities and possibilities that exist for them beyond secondary school.

Warrnambool College is grateful to everyone for their contribution and making the event a success.



Koorie Aspirations Day Warrnambool Area Schools.



Warrnambool College

Warrnambool College introduced project-based learning for Clontarf and Stars students this year to develop skills through a horticultural lens. The weekly sessions have provided opportunities to connect with community members and foster skills in leadership and mentoring. The Indigenous Garden and greenhouse reinvigoration continue to inspire other schools and community groups to create a 'living classroom' on their site to foster experiential learning through the hands.

On Friday, May 10th, Warrnambool College students Jailon, Haylee, Kobi and Meekah participated in a Q&A at the Leadership Great South Coast pitch. This fantastic opportunity allowed our students to share their creative process when designing the Six Indigenous Seasons artwork in 2023. A big thank you to LGSC participant Rebecca Faris for providing our Clontarf Academy and Stars Foundation students with future projects to celebrate their connection to country.

Last Friday, I introduced four Warrnambool College students to the Leadership Great South Coast participants as part of our successful project pitch to replicate the Six Seasons artwork in a public Warrnambool space. The project was selected no doubt due to the passion and clarity with which these proud students spoke of their profound connection to country in creating this artwork and their enthusiasm to share their culture with the wider community. LGSC is a program to support emerging regional leaders to be the change they wish to see in the world - and these students embody this purpose so much so they were invited to apply for the program themselves after completing school. Well done to the students and those that have supported them on this leadership journey.

Rebecca Faris LGSC member.

Clontarf Kindergarten sessions.

Clontarf students embarked on meaningful excursions to Allansford Kindergarten & Lions Hopkins Kindergarten, where they could share their learning with enthusiastic young minds. The session began with a sensory lesson and a discussion about the plants from our Indigenous Garden at Warrnambool College. The day's highlight was when they ventured into the yard to plant three new species: Kangaroo Grass, Billy Buttons, and Round-leaf River Mint. This hands-on activity connected them to the soil and inspired the younger children to work collaboratively with the older students. The sessions were concluded by reading a story and students viewing and participating in a dance, leaving a lasting impression on all of us.

Our team was very impressed with your students and the information they shared with the children. Kobi received great praise, so well done, Kobi!

Rebecca Allansford Kindergarten.

Star Flowers.

Ceramic star flowers have been handmade and painted by students in the Stars Foundation. The artworks will be available for sale at Worn Gundidj Nursery and Blak Markets. Future planning includes a public artwork and animation at the Warrnambool Art Gallery.



Warrnambool College

Dr. Tim Tutt has donated two Wetland Restore1 –

Floating Modules to the greenhouse space, a modular floating wetland system with numerous environmental applications. *'Like planting a tree to revegetate the land, WetlandRestore1 revegetates water bodies, improving water quality, ecology, and general waterway health'.*

The aqua plants will provide students an alternative 'living classroom' learning opportunities to the garden. Science classes are equally excited to participate in various observations and experiments to capture data on aquatic plants and the importance of water quality.

These positive learning opportunities do not happen without the support of KESO's, Clontarf, and Star's staff. I am thrilled to collaborate with you all as we continue to shine a positive spotlight on our future leaders.

Anthea Rafferty



Bio Cats 2024

On May 20th, 35 Koorie students from 8 schools in the Great South Coast Area of schools attended GMHBA stadium Geelong and took part in our annual Bio Cats event, every year for the last 10 years or so Bio Lab in partnership with Geelong Football Club invite our area to attend to celebrate AFL's Indigenous round.

Bio CATS is run from the Deakin Cats Community Centre at GMHBA Stadium as a full day program. Students and teachers participate in dynamic scientific experiments, using problem solving, statistical analysis and observation skills to learn about the science and mathematics of football and career pathways in sport. The program also reinforces the concepts of health and wellness and the benefits that come from sports participation.



Bio Cats 2024



BioLAB

VICTORIAN BIOSCIENCE
EDUCATION CENTRE

Koorie Academy of Excellence

On the second week of the Term1 break, the Wimerra Southwest Koorie Academy of Excellence attended the KAE Statewide Camp at Anglesea on Wathaurong Country. With loads of rain, the week earlier, we weren't sure if we needed thongs or gumboots though after 6 months of planning nothing was going to stop this.

26 Students from the South West arrived on Monday at the Anglesea YMCA Discovery Camp which would be our home for the next 3 days. We were so close to the beach, you could hear the waves breaking outside our bungalows. After getting set up in our rooms and getting used to the catering facilities. That afternoon we played some traditional games and followed dinner with a Marngrook making workshop which ended a hectic day for all. The morning of Day 2 had the Southwest group cycling through workshops on Artifacts, Art & Ochre, Language and Dance. During this time the North West KAE group arrived with 28 students and settled into their rooms. The Wathaurong mob then Welcomed us all to their country and a smoking ceremony.

After lunch, we were sorted into 5 groups and started the rotations that would continue through into Day 3. Over the next day and a half we worked on the High Ropes, had a trek on mountain bikes, went through the basics at the skate park, made bracelets and straw animals with Kristi and were hunting bullseye's on the archery range. The afternoon and evening was hosted by Tarsh Bamblett with activities ranging from wellness and stretching to making headdress' and arm bracelets. She ended the evening with a fireside yarning circle.

Day 3 and we finished the rotations and ended the night with a team quiz and disco. Day 4, our final morning, we had a Beach carnival with lots of wind and sand though everyone had fun they were also looking forward to the bus ride home.



Koorie Academy of Excellence



Horsham Tenpin Bowling

The first semester this year the Horsham Schools came together to have a fun evening "Strike Up A Yarn". The kids and families were able to gather at the local bowling ally for a game or two of bowling. Leadership was able to have fun and conversations with the families and students in an informal way. The chips were Amazing too!! A great night was had by all and it was extremely well attended.

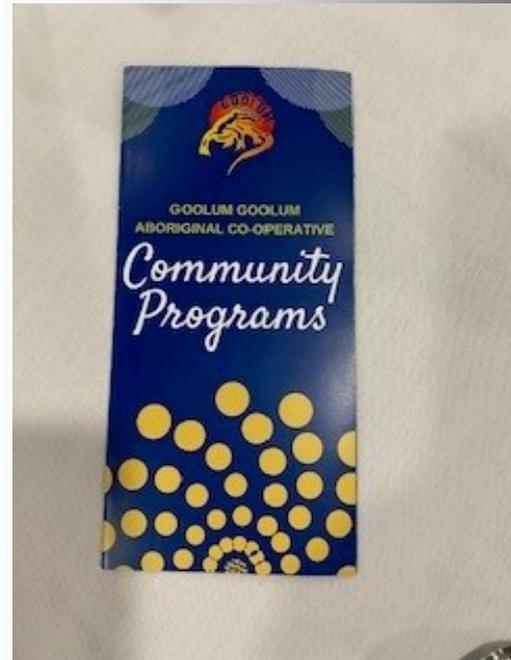


Horsham Tenpin Bowling



Horsham Community Dinner

To end the Semester “Community Connections” held a dinner hosted by Horsham College. Chef Cat Clarke produced a three course sit down dinner, all of Cat’s food is infused with bushfoods. The Goolum Family Services team presented on their support services and highlighted their “Hand’s Up” day – which is a focus on Mental Health for the Mob. It was a great night and the attendees enjoyed their meals and the informal chats across the tables.



Horsham Community Dinner



Dimboola Primary School

Harmony Day @ Dimboola Primary School.

An immersion of Culture at Dimboola Primary School. Aunty Nancy Harrison did a Welcome and talked to the children about the early days of growing up around Dimboola and Antwerp. Tracey Rigney talked to the children about the Wergia language and the kids were excited to learn that her daughter, their class mate, had a language name. Aunty Titta Seacome showed children the Marngrook and read her story about how it was made.

Liam Clarke and KESO (mum) showed the children their grandfathers artefacts, Liam showed the children how to throw a boomerang and make it come back. Chef Cat Clarke & her sister made wattle seed damper. Principal Greg Sampson had a BBQ with Kangaroo Sausages.

The kids had a great day and learnt allot about the local Aboriginal people and some of the students and their families.

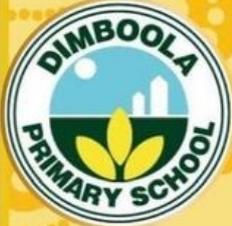


Dimboola Primary School



National Reconciliation Week
27 May - 3 June 2024

wear it
yellow
for Children's Ground



Wear a touch of
yellow to school on
Friday 31st May

Karratpeeten Indigenous Newsletter Page 30

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**Wimmera South West
Karratpeeten
(Message Stick)
Indigenous Newsletter**

South Western Victoria Region
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