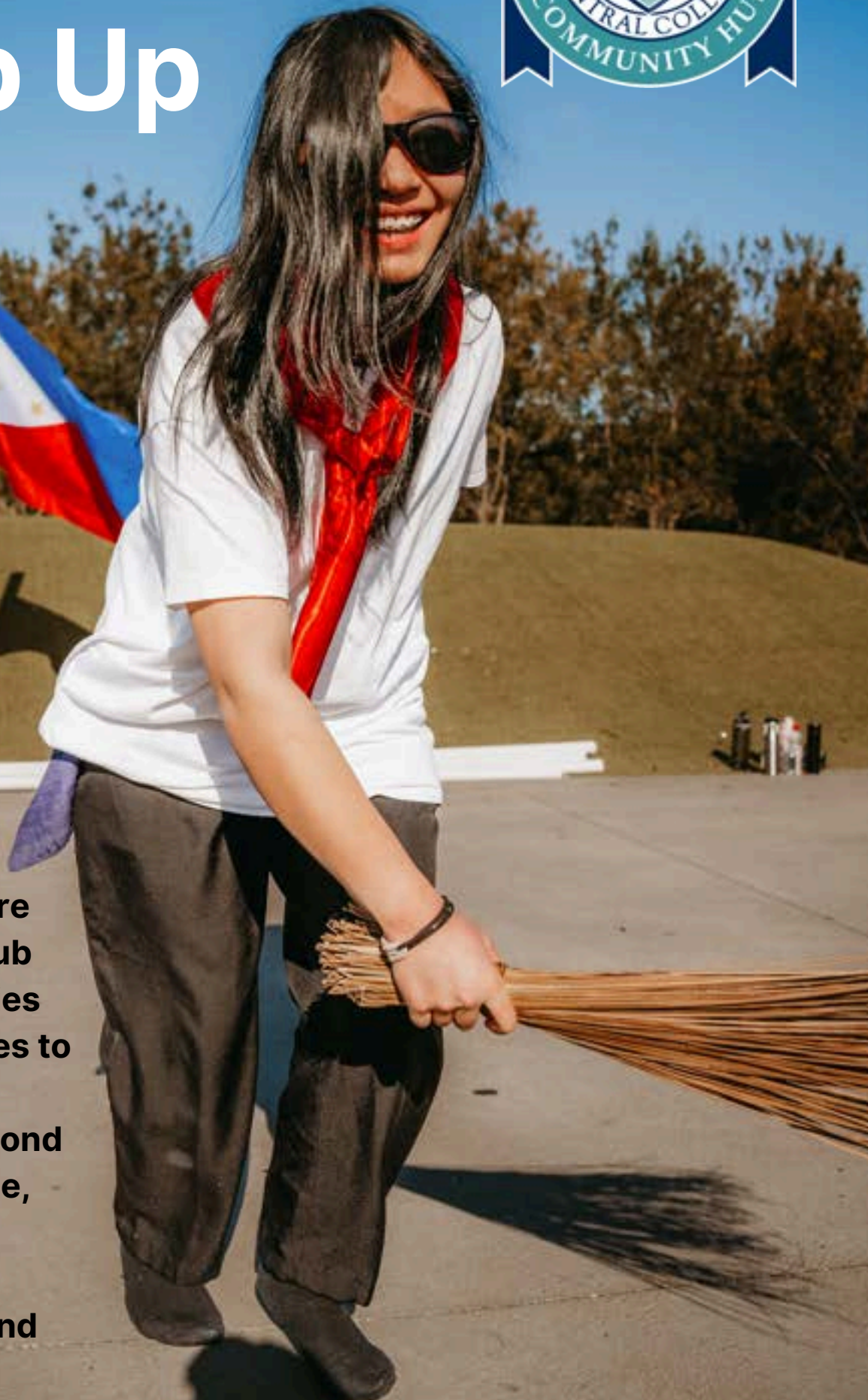


Yearly Wrap Up

2024



**The Link Centre
Community Hub
provides families
with opportunities to
link with the
community, beyond
the school gate,
enhancing
educational
engagement and
outcomes.**





About Us

The heart of what we do is bring families and community groups together, helping them tap into all the awesome resources that make the biggest difference for our students.

We've created a practice framework that not only helps our growing hub team but also gives teachers and staff a treasure chest of resources to use. Our vision is big but simple – we want staff and families to feel a strong sense of community, where everyone is inspired to keep learning, growing, and thriving in life, no matter where they are!



Wyndham Central College staff and families have a sense of community connectedness that promotes lifelong and life wide learning for all members.

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.

Our Mission

A lot of the great impact we see comes from the positive attitudes and values that families have about education. Even though these values often start outside of school, Wyndham Central College is all about building stronger relationships with families by:

- Helping teachers and staff connect with families and team up on their child's learning.
- Giving families simple, effective strategies to support their child's learning and encourage positive social behaviors.
- Partnering with community organisations to boost student wellbeing and support learning in the classroom.
- Tackling potential barriers to learning by addressing risks and promoting healthy, protective practices.

Our focus is underpinned by two key areas- family engagement and community connections.

Our goal is to have improved community partnerships, a strong connection between the home and school (family engagement) and to support and celebrate culture, diversity and inclusion.



Our Team



Paw Ner Moo

**Family
Community
Worker- Karen,
Burmese, Chin
and Karenni**



Cooper Decker

**Cultural
Coordinator-
First Nations**



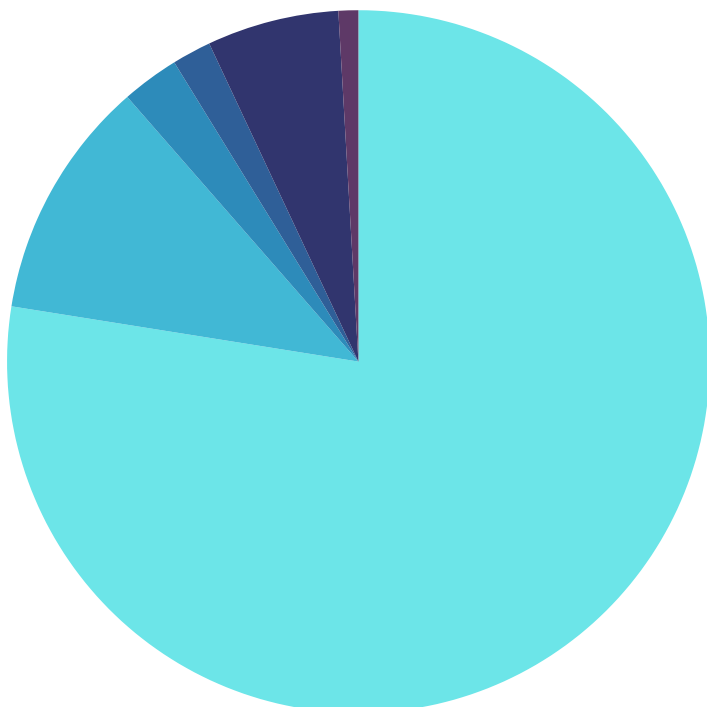
Malaan Chool

**Family
Community
Worker-African**



Kristy Gray

**Community
Engagement Lead**

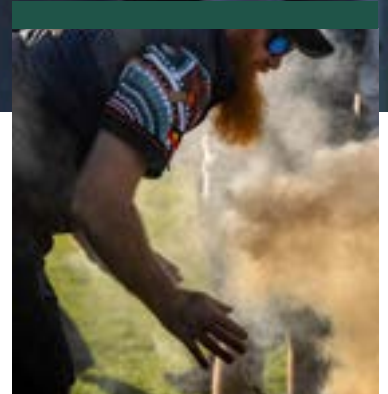
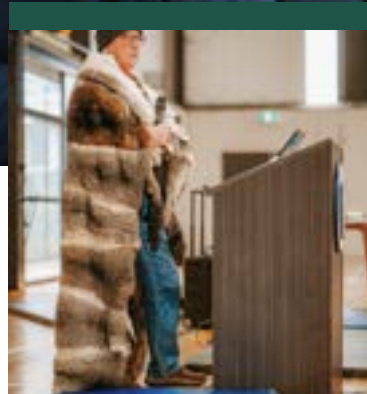


Our Impact

Key Focus of Link Centre Community Hub: Empowering Lives through Education

The Link Centre Community Hub prioritises education as a central aspect of its mission. The courses provided aim to expand participants' knowledge, enhance employment prospects, boost cognitive skills, support adaptation to life in an English-speaking country, improve communication abilities, explore identity, celebrate and learn culture.





DEADLY YOUNG MOB




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.

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.

From Bunurong Land




Our Cultural Leaders, Sophie Madden and AJ Anderson, have done an outstanding job championing student voice within the school's Reconciliation Action Plan. Their dedicated efforts over the years have helped shape a policy focused on integrating First Nations perspectives into the classroom. Now that they have graduated from Year 12, we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. We wish them all the best and look forward to collaborating with them in the future. At the valedictory ceremony, all Young Mob graduating students received a possum skin, with the school's journey beautifully burned into each skin by Wathaurong Elder and KESO worker Aunty Judy Dalton-Walsh. Congratulations to Imijen, Holly, Tyler, and Rhys on their graduation alongside AJ and Sophie!




Young Mob partnered with Essendon Football Club's Ganbu Gulin program for 10 weeks of cultural immersion and connection. Ganbu Gulin (One Mob in Woi Wurrung language) brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to support them to find voice, build pride and connection to culture and community. Our first session featured gum leaf painting, led by Janaya and Taylah. We also enjoyed hip hop dancing, basketball, and footy clinics! To wrap up, we tried kangaroo sausages and burgers and cooked Bush Dampier with Aunty Fay.


A big thank you to Essendon's Long Walk Program for hosting such a powerful experience.




We had an amazing opportunity to take our Young Mob students to meet Elders and community members at Youth Services, thanks to Daniel Ward, the First Nations Youth Worker at the Youth Resource Centre - Wyndham. The group took part in a yarning circle, where they could ask any questions, followed by a big meal and some painting. Students from local secondary schools connected and formed new friendships.




Wyndham Central College was a finalist for the Secretary's Marrung Awards, which celebrate the unique contributions of Aboriginal staff and allies in improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal students. We were nominated for the Community Engagement Award, which honors efforts to build community partnerships and innovate in improving outcomes for Koorie students. While we didn't take home the top prize, we're proud to be the only secondary school in Victoria represented as finalists across all four categories. A big thank you to Secretary Jenny Atta and Regional Director Chris Thompson for the opportunity, and to our RAP Management group—Kristy Gray, Aunty Judith Dalton-Walsh, Principal Leanne Gagatsis, and Marrung Champion Troy West—for their continued support.



Community Understanding and Safety Training (CUST) equips school staff with the tools to create culturally inclusive environments that support the well-being of First Nations students. Aunty Judy Dalton-Walsh, a proud Wathaurong Elder and our school's Koori Education Support Officer, led an inspiring session for all staff, sharing her knowledge and wisdom.



Young Mob visited Wyndham Tech School for Deadly Tech Day, where students had the chance to connect with peers in the network and explore new skills in the tech field. From game design to robotics, it was a fantastic day to discover new pathways. A big thank you to Wyndham Tech School and our mentors from Youth Services, Vic Assembly, City West Water, and Wyndham City Council for making this event possible!



The Young Mob Connection has been thriving this year, with the group meeting regularly—weekly during some terms and fortnightly in others. These gatherings have helped foster strong bonds and friendships among the members while providing a supportive space to explore their identities and culture. The group has also been reflecting on how they represent the First Nations community in their daily lives, particularly in the yard. Throughout the year, we've been fortunate to host several visitors from First Nations organisations, who have shared their lived experiences, told powerful truth-telling stories, and helped guide us in learning more about advocating for young people.

RECONCILIATION WEEK



Wyndham Central College acknowledge Reconciliation Week and on behalf of the RAP Management Group, we would like to thank Young Mob for representing our school 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

NAIDOC WEEK



Our school proudly hosted the second Wyndham Secondary School Network NAIDOC event, in collaboration with Werribee Secondary College. Nearly 100 students from Hoppers Crossing Secondary College, The Grange Secondary College, Dohertys Creek P-9 College, and Manor Lakes College came together to celebrate. The event featured a range of activities and engagement from our local partners, including Koling wada-ngal at Wungurrwil Dhurrung Centre, the Aboriginal Wellness Foundation, Victoria University Werribee, The Long Walk, headspace Werribee, and the Youth Resource Centre - Wyndham.

Participants enjoyed a variety of cultural activities, including exploring cultural artifacts, art, weaving, gum leaf painting, beading, and more. Elders Aunty Judy and Uncle Rob led the Acknowledgment of Country and shared valuable stories and traditions with the group.

NAIDOC Week, held annually in July, celebrates the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It's an occasion observed not only in Indigenous communities but across Australia and around the world. Our Wyndham Young Mob is truly deadly, and this event was a wonderful celebration of our vibrant culture and community!



A Note from Our Marrung Champions

Kristy and Troy have been working with Young Mob for a couple of years now and we are so proud of the connection and growth from the group. We look for improved engagement and attendance through the work we do each session. Truth-telling is a focus for us and we try to provide as many opportunities as possible to amplify their voice, ensuring they have what they need when they walk through the school gate. We are very proud of our Deadly Young Mob and so happy to be working with their families.

Program Highlights



The Link Centre Community Hub are the winner of the Premieres Award for Community Harmony for the work taking place in our school community hub thanks to the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

The Honourable Jacinta Allan MP handpicked our work, and we were presented with the trophy at Government House by the Premier and Governor of Victoria, Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC.

The Community Hub team took a huge group of parents and children to the Melbourne Museum! As part of their preparation for their citizenship test and to lean into using English, our adult learners wanted to learn more about Aboriginal people, so the museum organised this free excursion - a VIP visit to the First Nations section and exploring other elements of the museum.

Some have never travelled on the train or been in Melbourne before- so wonderful! Thank you to Melbourne Museum for having us!





A big thank you to Mary Htoo for her incredible volunteer work at our Community Carnival Op Shop! Mary dedicated countless hours to sorting clothes, ensuring that everyone could access affordable clothing while helping to keep items out of landfills. Your efforts truly make a difference, Mary!

Neil Dillon was an active member of the Wyndham Park Community Centre, a strong partner organisation for Wyndham Central College. Neil's family is honoured to have this award for the young people who give back to their community.

The recipient of this award has shown exceptional leadership within the Wyndham Community, from supporting multiple initiatives in our Community Hub, to sharing compassion and culture to the Pasifika community in Wyndham. Congratulations to Seini "Oneola".



We celebrated a day of school with Werribee Fire Brigade - CFA teaching our families, where English is a second language, about fire safety in the home. Our very own Mr Lister and Trent taught us about what to do when there is a fire in the home which included drawing our own fire escape plans, how to call 000 and how to use a fire blanket and fire hydrant.

All participants received a free fire blanket for their home. This is such a valuable class to teach and we thank Mr Lister, Trent and all our fire fighters serving our community and keeping us safe. Our VM students were part of the day, supporting our families and learning alongside them.





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 aimed 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.

Our adult learners are absolutely excelling this year, taking their learning to the next level! A big shoutout to Wayne from the Wyndham Community and Education Centre for making computer classes the talk of the town!



English classes are getting more challenging but are also becoming more enjoyable, with parents actively practicing their language skills together. The boost in our students' confidence is clear. A huge thanks to our teachers, Claudette and Josie for fostering such a supportive learning environment.





Our families have been enjoying free yoga lessons thanks to our community partner Nang Tin Nilar Win. Yoga is good for strength, balance and flexibility and we are wanting our families to live their best lives! More lessons will be provided in Term 4- stay tuned for details.

Malaan and English teacher Mrs Millard had the pleasure of taking our Year 7 and 8 students to Baai Alkebulan House as part of the 10-week Junubi Youth Group program.

Baai Alkebulan is Australia's first African Library, Arts and History Museum. They are a dedicated home for learning about the history and culture of people of African and First Nations descent. From rare and important books to art, antiques, professional services and businesses, they want to educate people about the rich cultures and history to empower each other to navigate the future. Baai Alkebulan House inspires the youth to use the teachings of our ancestors to reach greater heights, unbound by the preconceived ideas placed upon us. They seek to create a new narrative for the future of African communities by learning about their past to better understand current challenges and prepare for the future.

It was amazing to see our students learn new things about themselves, and their community and we look forward to hearing how we can bring this information back into our classrooms.



We finished Term 3 with a graduation in the Community Hub!

Congratulations to our families that completed their Living and Working in Australia course. This 10 week program is all about preparing for the Citizenship Test, which is very hard! We couldn't do it without Wyndham Community and Education teacher Wayne and our very own Paw Ner Moo!



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

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.

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.



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 back grounds 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.



SAY IT WITH YOUR CHEST!

A student group collaborated with the Royal Children's Hospital to strengthen their sense of connection and confidence in self-expression. Focused on podcast development, they independently decided on their activities and communication methods. Under the guidance of external facilitator Lydia Tesema, students explored these concepts to gain industry insights. Their achievements were presented at the Wyndham Healthy Living Program at the Youth Resource Centre.

The Festival for Healthy Living (FHL) was a distinctive mental health promotion initiative by the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Mental Health. It aimed to enhance mental health and well-being in children, youth, and families by empowering schools, artists, communities, and local governments to introduce arts-based mental health activities. Through arts workshops and cultural events, participants creatively expressed 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 continued their podcast series, "Say It With Your Chest," throughout the year.



wear it purple day



Wear It Purple Day is about demonstrating to rainbow young people that they are celebrated and respected and acknowledging they all have the right to be proud of who they are and who they are becoming. It is about creating safe spaces to show LGBTQIA+ young people that they are seen and supported.

We hosted a fundraiser, all the amazing work was completely by our Rainbow Group students and Community Members.

Why do we celebrate this day?

Wear It Purple Day is a great opportunity to think about how you perceive other people, and how you can improve on being inclusive and respectful. Although many gender diverse (LGBTQIA+) people live healthy and happy lives, research has demonstrated that a disproportionate number experience poorer mental health outcomes and have higher risk of suicidal behaviours than their peers. These health outcomes are directly related to experiences of stigma, prejudice, discrimination, and abuse on the basis of being LGBTQIA+. Please read more about these statistics in the Writing Themselves In 4: National Report (latrobe.edu.au) which highlights the need for education and inclusion days.



Out and About in the Community 2024



Out and About in the Community 2024



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Malaan Chool

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See You in 2025!