

**THE LINK
CENTRE
COMMUNITY
HUB PROVIDES
FAMILIES WITH
OPPORTUNITIES
TO LINK WITH
THE SCHOOL
COMMUNITY
AND BEYOND
AND FIND THEIR
VOICE IN
LEARNING AND
CULTURE.**

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JUNE 2025

LINK NEWS



**CULTURAL LEADER CHLOE WITH
BUNURONG ELDERS**

RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025



Earlier this term, we proudly acknowledged the important role our school community plays in building a reconciled, inclusive, and respectful future. Reconciliation Week provided a powerful opportunity to reflect, connect, and take meaningful steps toward truth-telling, justice, and unity.

We were honoured to welcome Aunty Judy Dalton Walsh, a respected Wathaurong Elder, who delivered a powerful Culture Talk that inspired deep reflection and learning. Students also participated in energetic workshops with Indigenous Outreach Projects, exploring both traditional dance and contemporary hip hop, highlighting the strength, creativity, and resilience of First Nations culture.

A special Smoking Ceremony, led by Elders from the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation was held for our Year 12 cohort and deepened our school's collective connection to Country and culture.

Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Management Group has continued developing our school's second RAP, focusing on strengthening relationships, building respect, and creating opportunities, especially within our classrooms.

A proud moment from the week was when our Young Mob students visited Western Autistic School to share stories, culture, and connection with primary-aged students. It was a meaningful exchange that reflected the leadership and pride of our students.

Together, we continue to walk the path of reconciliation- learning, sharing, and growing side by side.



FROM BUNURONG LAND

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.

BETTER READING AND WRITING



Our Better Reading and Writing course helps families with low English proficiency by improving their communication skills, increasing confidence, and enhancing daily life interactions. It enables parents to support their children's education, understand important documents, and engage with teachers and the community. By strengthening literacy, families gain better job opportunities, access essential services, and build stronger social connections, leading to greater independence and improved quality of life. Thanks to our partners at Wyndham Community and Education Centre for facilitating.

ANZAC DAY: CAPTAINS IN COMMUNITY

This year, our school captains Alice, Tala, Nicole, and Liam, alongside our Community Engagement Lead Kristy, proudly represented our school at the Werribee ANZAC Day March.

They paid tribute to those who served and sacrificed, while also standing for the values that define our school community: respect, gratitude, and connection.

Participating in events like this offers our students a powerful opportunity to give back, show leadership, and remain connected to the people and stories that have shaped our nation's history.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Werribee RSL and Joanne Ryan MP for welcoming our school into this important tradition.



A huge thank you to Cordiform for bringing incredible energy and talent to our school! And a special shoutout to the Paradox Freeza team for making it all happen.

The live music experience was more than just entertainment - it was inspiring. When young people have the chance to see artists doing what they love, it sparks creativity, builds confidence, and creates real connection.

The day was loud, authentic, and unforgettable. We're so grateful for the vibes Cordiform brought to our space - we hope to welcome them back again soon!

CORDIFORM: YOUTH SERVICES SCHOOL TOUR

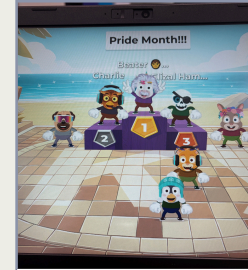
TERM 2 RAINBOW GROUP

June is Pride Month, and there's no better time to connect, celebrate identity, and build inclusive community. Our Rainbow Group is a welcoming space for LGBTQIA+ students and allies to gather, learn, create, and have fun -together.

Each session includes a mix of:

- Connection-Chill time to chat, check in, and build friendships
- Education-Learn about LGBTQIA+ history, identities, and rights in a safe, supportive way
- Crafting-From badge-making to zines to DIY pride gear
- Snacks – Because everything's better with food
- Fun – Games, music, and more

Whether you're out, questioning, or an ally looking to learn, there's a place for you here.



COFFEE WITH A COP

We welcomed Mark and Julie from the Proactive Police Unit at Werribee Station for a meaningful session with our families focused on community safety, where to find support, and how to respond in different situations.

The conversation was led by our families, who asked the questions most important to them. Building strong, respectful relationships with local police is a key step toward creating safer, more connected communities.

Thank you to Paw Ner Moo for organising the event, to Eh Su from WCEC for their support, and to our incredible student leaders -Eh Moe Ta, Shar Kwe Shee, and Dah Lee Say -who provided translation, served refreshments, and supported the event throughout.

We look forward to continuing these conversations in future sessions.



THE SMITH FAMILY



We were delighted to have The Smith Family host a special morning tea for our scholarship families, bringing people together to connect, share, and feel supported. It was a warm and welcoming event that reminded us of the power of community.

As part of their ongoing support, The Smith Family team is available in our Community Hub every Tuesday from 10:15 AM.

This drop-in service is open to all families, whether you're looking for information about scholarships, support programs, or just a friendly chat over a cuppa, you're very welcome.

Pop in, say hello, and find out how The Smith Family can support you and your child's educational journey!

REFUGEE WEEK 2025



Our school recently came together to mark Refugee Week through powerful storytelling, cultural experiences, and creative expression that honoured the resilience and contributions of refugees in our community. Across all year levels, students had the opportunity to hear real refugee stories, personal and moving accounts that deepened our understanding and empathy. Each year level then participated in a unique activity inspired by the richness of different cultures:

- Year 7 students took part in a high-energy basketball clinic with Junubi, learning new skills and teamwork through sport.
- Years 8 and 9 joined an energetic Afro Movements dance class, moving to the rhythms of African music and culture.
- Year 10 explored the traditional art of Karen weaving, discovering the skill and symbolism behind this beautiful cultural practice.
- Year 11 students unleashed their voices through slam poetry, crafting spoken-word pieces on identity, migration, and hope.
- Year 12 wrote heartfelt letters of welcome to newly arrived families, offering solidarity and encouragement.



WHY IT MATTERS:
MANY PEOPLE HAVE HAD TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY BECAUSE OF WAR, DANGER, OR UNFAIR TREATMENT. REFUGEE WEEK REMINDS US TO WELCOME THEM, LISTEN TO THEIR STORIES, AND STAND TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY.

REFUGEE WEEK 2025

To close the week, we held a fundraiser for Sharing Hope, raising an incredible \$1,140.40 to support refugee communities — a project proudly led by our Interact Team in partnership with Werribee Rotary.

- Congratulations to student artist Sofia Hla, whose stunning painting Bagan was awarded as the first prize in our raffle. Miss Ellie Lee took home the painting, Miss Whitfield won second prize - a signed Essendon Football Club jumper (thanks to The Long Walk), and Miss Jess Pine came third, winning a Kmart voucher.

A heartfelt thank you to all students, staff, and supporters who made Refugee Week such a meaningful and memorable experience. Together, we continue to learn, stand in solidarity, and share hope.



ARTIST STATEMENT

Hi, I'm Sofia Hla, a young artist from Myanmar. My journey brought me from Myanmar's Kayin State to Australia in late 2021, a time marked by significant conflict back home. It gives me a deep passion for helping my people.

This Refugee Week, I'm dedicating my art to make a tangible difference. I'm raffling off one of my paintings: (Bagan) a captivating sunset scene from Bagan, the ancient UNESCO World Heritage Site in Myanmar's Mandalay Region, renowned for its golden temples and pagodas. This piece isn't just a painting; it's a piece of our resilient heritage, offered as a prize for those who stand with us.

All funds raised will go directly to supporting refugees in Karen State, providing essential education, food, and shelter. My art represents half of this effort, and the other half comes from your support.

Join me in this crucial cause! Get your raffle ticket for a chance to win this unique artwork, and together, let's bring hope and aid to those who need it most.



TREATY YARNS



This term, we were joined by Claire and Jimmy from the First Peoples' Assembly Youth Team to help us learn more about Treaty and why it matters.

A Treaty is an agreement between groups that sets out how they'll work together. In Victoria, the government and First Peoples are working on Treaties to recognise the truth of the past, and to give Aboriginal communities the power to make decisions about what's best for them, especially at the local level.

There are two kinds of Treaties being worked on:

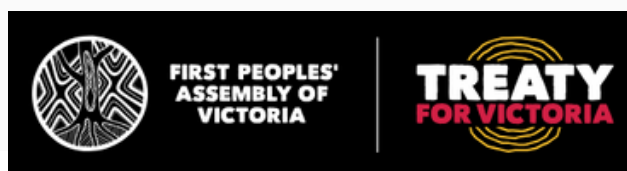
- Local Treaties with Traditional Owners, to support decisions made for communities by communities.
- A Statewide Treaty, which strengthens the First Peoples' Assembly to help drive big changes and make life better for Aboriginal people across Victoria.

Treaty is about truth, respect, and a better future, together and our Young Mob students were able to provide feedback on what they would like to see for their futures.

Staff, students, parents, and families from our school joined the Wyndham leg of Walk for Truth, led by Commissioner Travis Lovett, a proud Kerrupmara Gunditjmara man.

The walk was part of a 500km journey from Portland to Parliament House in Naarm, calling for truth-telling and justice. Message Sticks collected along the way were delivered to Parliament — a powerful call for government to listen and act on the Truth shared through the Yoorrook Justice Commission.

We're proud to have stood alongside thousands of First Peoples and allies in this historic moment.



AUNTY BRENDA MATTHEWS



This term, our Year 8 and 9 students had the powerful opportunity to hear from Aunty Brenda Matthews, a proud First Nations woman and survivor of the Stolen Generations. Aunty Brenda generously shared her personal story, one of love, loss, resilience, and identity. Her words moved the room into stillness, creating a moment of deep listening and reflection for all present. It was more than a history lesson; it was an act of truth-telling that left a lasting impact on both students and staff.

Later that day, our school hosted a Family Yarning Circle with Aunty Brenda, where she led a traditional weaving workshop.

The event brought together elders, parents, children, and community members, sitting side by side, sharing stories, laughter, and connection through culture. Aunty Brenda's husband Mark and our KESO Aunty Judy Dalton Walsh also joined us for the day, offering guidance and support.

A highlight of the experience was witnessing the growth and strength of our Young Mob students, who engaged with deep respect and cultural pride. Many of these students began their journey in the Young Mob program still seeking a sense of identity and belonging. Now, they stand with confidence, asking questions, showing leadership, and honouring their culture with every step.

This event was made possible through the dedication of our Enrichment student, Annabella, whose project work focused on cultural learning and community building, with the support of her mother Janis.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Aunty Brenda for her generosity and strength in sharing her story with our school community. Her message, and the space she created, will remain with us for a long time.

For those who want to learn more, Aunty Brenda's story is captured in her memoir and featured in the documentary *The Last Daughter*, available on [Netflix](#).

WHAT'S ON IN THE HUB FOR TERM 3?

Date / Frequency	Event / Activity	Time / Details
Every Tuesday	The Smith Family – Drop-in Service	10:15 AM – 11:00 AM at the Community Hub
Every Tuesday (Break 2)	Rainbow Group	Lunchtime safe space & activities
Every Wednesday	Sewing Classes with WCEC	12:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Fortnightly Wednesdays (Week 1 start)	Interact Club Meetings	Break 1
Every Thursday (Break 2)	Auslan Club	Lunchtime session
Every Thursday	Peer-to-Peer Drop-In A chance for families to connect over topics that are important to them	9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Thursday, July 24	NAIDOC Western Network Gathering	AVID Centre-
Week 3 (Term 3)	Multicultural Week	Each break time- cultural dress day on the Tuesday
Tuesday, August 6	Multicultural Week Family Night	5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
August 18–22	Book Week: Family Fun Activities	Across the week
Thursday, August 29	Wear It Purple Day – Fundraiser	Break 1
Wednesday, September 4	Learning Festival – Community Gathering	3.30pm-5pm
Monday, September 16	Connections Week – Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences	11am to 3pm



OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



THANKS FOR SUPPORTING US!