

## NAIDOC Newsletter 2020

### NAIDOC Week:

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

At Goulburn East this year we celebrated NAIDOC Week throughout Week 5 in our classrooms and we wanted to share some highlights of our celebrations with you in our special edition newsletter.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself.

### ***Always Was, Always Will Be.***

This year's NAIDOC Week theme, *Always Was, Always Will Be* recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country. This country was criss-crossed by generations of brilliant Nations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.

Australia has the world's oldest oral stories. The First Peoples engraved the world's first maps, made the earliest paintings of ceremony and invented unique technologies. We built and engineered structures - structures on Earth - predating well-known sites such as the Egyptian Pyramids and Stonehenge.

Our adaptation and intimate knowledge of Country enabled us to endure climate change, catastrophic droughts and rising sea levels. *Always Was, Always Will Be* acknowledges that hundreds of Nations and our cultures covered this continent. All were managing the land - the biggest estate on earth - to sustainably provide for their future. Through ingenious land management systems like fire stick farming we transformed the harshest habitable continent into a land of bounty.

NAIDOC Week 2020 acknowledges and celebrates that our nation's story didn't begin with documented European contact whether in 1770 or 1606 - with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula. The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations peoples. Our coastal Nations watched and interacted with at least 36 contacts made by Europeans prior to 1770. Many of them resulting in the charting of the northern, western and southern coastlines – of our lands and our waters. For us, this nation's story began at the dawn of time.

NAIDOC 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country – a history which dates back thousands of generations. It's about seeing, hearing and learning the First Nations' 65,000+ year history of this country - which is Australian history. We want all Australians to celebrate that we have the oldest continuing cultures on the planet and to recognise that our sovereignty was never ceded.

*Always Was, Always Will Be.*

## K/1J

K/1J celebrated NAIDOC Week by reading stories about the Dreamtime and Arnhem Land. We also looked at the symbols used in Aboriginal artworks and learnt a song.

We learnt about how there was a meaning in the stories they told like “kindness is like a boomerang – if you throw it often, it comes back often” (*Kookoo Kookaburra* by Gregg Dreise). Also by Greg Dreise is a story called *Mad Magpie*. The elders say “stay calm like the water, be powerful like the water’s current”.

We learnt that there are six seasons in Arnhem Land and that the weather is either wet or dry.

Our artwork displayed the meaning behind the *Rainbow Serpent* and how it created the land, rivers and the people. They created a snake from a paper plate with dot patterns which they then wrote a sentence about.

Our stones that we painted also represented the symbols used in Aboriginal artworks like campfire, witchetty grubs, emu tracks and moving kangaroo tracks. Each student then described what their symbols meant and this was uploaded onto Seesaw for all the parents to see.

We also learnt a song and dance to *Taba Naba*. This song originated from the Torres Strait Islands and is about going in a dinghy to the reef. We had a go at performing the song in rounds accompanied with actions. This was then uploaded to Seesaw for parents to see.

K/1J thoroughly enjoyed learning about Indigenous Australia and have a new appreciation of how important the land, the people and the culture is to our country.



## 1/2F and 1/2P

1/2F & 1/2P celebrated NAIDOC Week through our Geography unit where we were learning about how we use waterways. A very sacred and interesting way the First Nations people used waterways is in Brewarrina NSW where the Baiame's Ngunnhu or the Fish Traps are situated.

We listened to the Dreamtime story of how the fish traps came to be. Baiame is the name of the Aboriginal man from the Dreamtime story, whose sons built the traps. The fish traps are the oldest man-made structure in the world and is an important meeting place for 8 different tribes who shared their languages and ideas.

We built dioramas to demonstrate how the traps were made and shaped. The traps are made of rocks in a tear drop shape. The fish are chased into the traps or sometimes would swim in. The trap is blocked off with more rocks. The fish are then easy to catch for food.

1/2F and 1/2P wrote opinion pieces as to why we felt the fish traps should be preserved and maintained. This discussion allowed both classes to appreciate the importance of the land to the people and the diversity of the First Nations people to our culture and to our country.

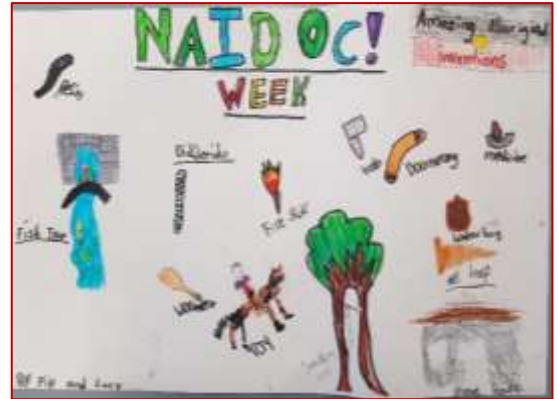


## 3/4M

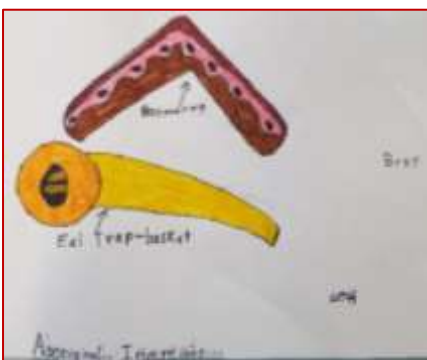
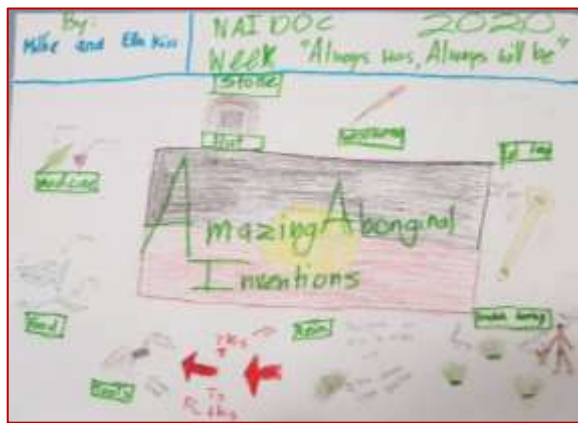
Last week 3/4M celebrated NAIDOC week by exploring aboriginal 'firsts' including first inventions, discoveries and exploration. We looked at many amazing inventions that the aboriginal people created. We watched a video about Budj Bim, an Eel Trap in Victoria. This we compared to the Brewarrina Fish Traps.

3/4M also discovered that aboriginals were the original astronomers. They used the stars to help them find food. Other inventions that we explored were:

- Woomera and Boomerang
- Water bags and Smoking Trees
- Stone and glass tools
- Bush foods and medicines
- Resin (glue)
- Firestick Farming (controlled burning)
- Toys



3/4M were amazed at the huge amount of 'firsts' the indigenous people have achieved. Here are some more of our pictures showing these fantastic inventions.



Our class had fun doing NAIDOC activities with Mrs Robens. We read dreamtime stories and then made masks. Later we tried dot painting on rocks and leaves and then around animal pictures. It was slow work and we had to be careful when trying to make consistent shaped dots. It gave us a real appreciation of the effort that goes into these works.

We learnt about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and about Indigenous people during the Second World War. We also learnt about storytelling and their 60,000 years in Australia.



## *5/6G and 5/6R*

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. In Stage 3 we celebrated NAIDOC Week by immersing ourselves in Aboriginal culture.

In 5/6R we started the week by watching a smoking ceremony to acknowledge NAIDOC Week. In 5/6G we learnt about this year's theme, Always Was Always Will Be. Then all of Stage Three came together to watch Phillip Noyce's award-winning movie "Rabbit Proof Fence". Students were then asked to write the story from the perspective of one of the characters.

For homework Stage 3 were asked to design a new 'Google' homepage with a NAIDOC theme. There are some very clever designs!

5/6R completed a study on Archie Roach and listened to his song and story, "They Took the Children Away". We also listened to Luke Carroll's indigenous stories on YouTube. Our favourite activity was learning the stories through dance. The clapping sticks are fantastic.

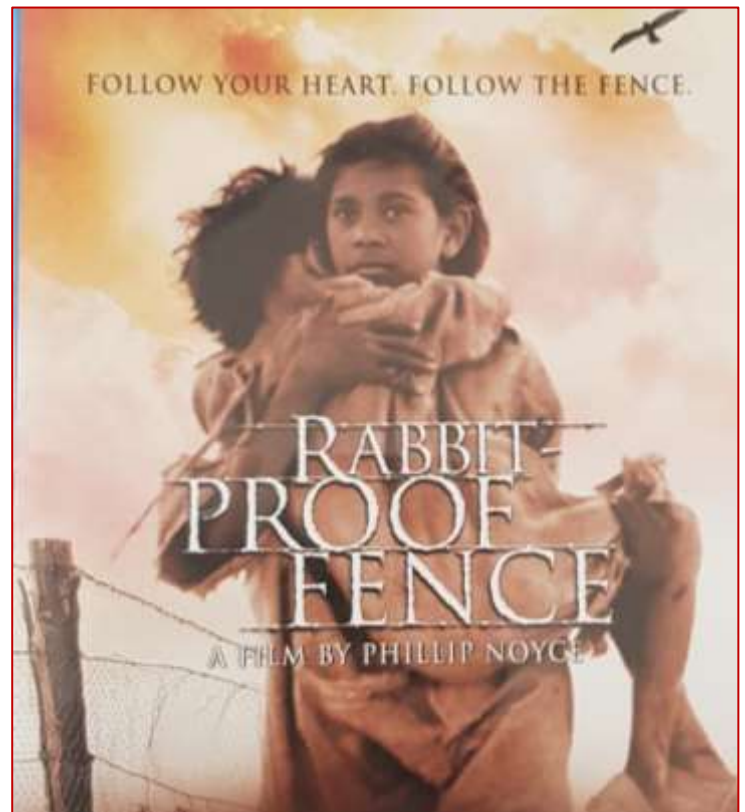
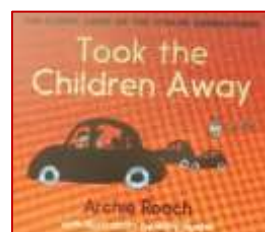
5/6G began researching an aspect of Aboriginal Culture that really interested them and we are writing individual information reports to share next week. Some topics include Aboriginal weapons and tools, The Dreamtime, bush tucker, the Brewarrina fish traps (inspired by the wonderful creations in Stage 1) and famous Aboriginal people, including Albert Namatjira and Neville Bonner. Some outstanding pieces of writing are coming to life, well done 5/6G!

Our wonderful leaders led a respectful ceremony for Remembrance Day, where we celebrated and remembered the amazing contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders made to the war effort. Mrs Anderson read the story Alfred's War to the school and Mrs Robinson read a poem entitled 'The Aboriginal Soldier'.

Across Stage 3 we read Nathan Mayors 'Finding our Heart', which explores the Uluru Statement in children's language, encouraging everyone to listen to one another respectfully. Everybody has the right to be listened too. Students then designed a new book cover art for the story to go with the theme: 'Finding our Heart'. There are some very beautiful artworks!

Stage 3 thoroughly enjoyed learning about Indigenous Australia and have a new appreciation of how important the land, the people and the culture is to our country.





## Remembering our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Servicemen and Servicewomen

### Remembrance Day 2020



This year was unique as it is the first time Remembrance Day has fallen during NAIDOC Week. For our commemorations, led by our school leaders, we remembered the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People played in supporting the war effort.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have served in large numbers in every conflict since Australia's Federation in 1901 and some signed up to colonial forces before this. In recent times many families, community members and organisations have been working to bring to light the stories, contributions and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service people. We now know that:

- Over 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served in World War I and around 70 fought at Gallipoli
- At least 3,000 Aboriginal and 850 Torres Strait Islander people served in World War II
- In both World Wars, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had the highest participation rates in the military as a proportion of their population in Australia
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have participated in all military conflicts since the World Wars, including in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and in peacekeeping operations including in Somalia and East Timor

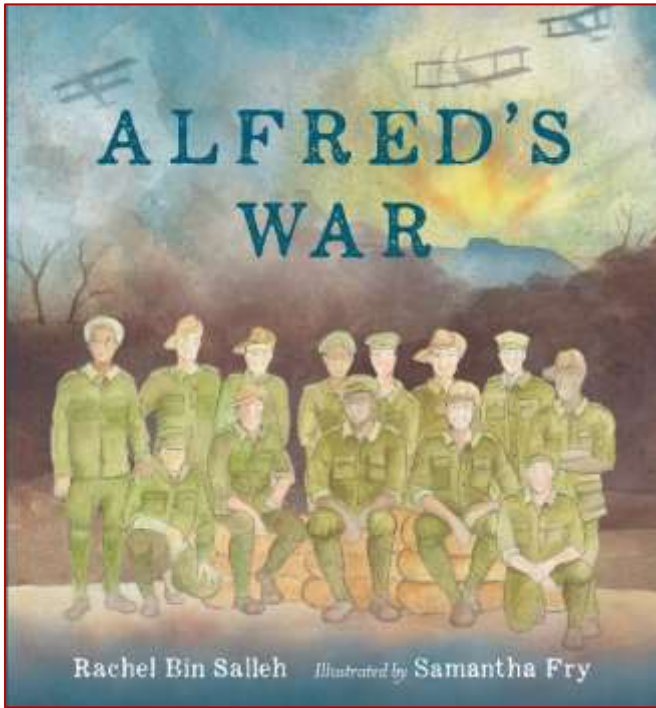
At the beginning of World War I, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were prohibited from enlisting in the armed forces on the grounds of their race. After suffering huge casualties and a declining rate of enlistment, laws were changed to allow some Aboriginal people to enlist.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men joined the Great War for lots of reasons – some hoped for equal rights, some did so out of loyalty to their country and others were looking for adventure. Once enlisted, these men were accepted by the comrades as equals and mates. They also received equal pay, which was unheard of for Indigenous men and women at the time.

Despite their bravery and sacrifice, they were not fully recognised by their country or in the communities they returned to. It would take years before the service and sacrifice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander veterans to Australia's war efforts were acknowledged and valued.

During our service Mrs Anderson read, Rachel Bin Salleh's '*Alfred's War*', an emotional narrative which opens our hearts to the sacrifice and contribution that Indigenous people have made to Australia's war efforts. Mrs Robinson also read a poem entitled, '*The Aboriginal Soldier*' by Sandra Hayman.







**Always Was,  
Always Will Be.**



**NAIDOC WEEK**

Artwork: Shape of Land by Tysonoff Rogers

The Rainbow Serpent came out of the Dreamtime to create this land. It is responsible for the water and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it unites our lands. The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected in the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime. The figure inside the shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians looking at this country - since the dawn of time - always was, and always will be Australia.