



NAIDOC Newsletter 2021

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 10, Term 2 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.

Heal Country!

The NAIDOC 2021 theme – *Heal Country!* – calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Country is inherent to our identity. It sustains our lives in every aspect - spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and culturally. It is more than a place. When we talk about Country it is spoken of like a person. Country is family, kin, law, lore, ceremony, traditions, and language. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples it has been this way since the dawn of time. Through our languages and songs, we speak to Country; through our ceremonies and traditions we sing to - and celebrate Country – and Country speak to us.

NAIDOC 2021 invites the nation to embrace First Nations' cultural knowledge and understanding of Country as part of Australia's national heritage and equally respect the culture and values of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders as they do the cultures and values of all Australians.

For generations we have been calling for stronger measures to recognise, protect, and maintain all aspects of our culture and heritage. We are still waiting for those robust protections. This year's theme also seeks substantive institutional, structural, and collaborative reform – something generations of our Elders and communities have been advocating, marching and fighting for.

Healing Country means finally resolving many of the outstanding injustices which impact on the lives of our people. It is about hearing and actioning the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which are the culmination of generations of consultation and discussions among our nations on a range of issues and grievances. *Healing Country* is more than changing a word in our national anthem – it is about the historical, political, and administrative landscapes adapting to successfully empower and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, nations, and heritage. We are all looking for significant and lasting change.

Heal Country, heal our nation. (Information from <https://www.naidoc.org.au/>)



Artwork: Care for Country by Maggie-Jean Douglas (Gubbi Gubbi)

When creating 'Care for Country' I kept in mind that this meant spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and culturally – I chose to create a bright and vibrant artwork that included the different colours of the land but showed how they come together in our beautiful country and to make people feel hopeful for the future. I've included communities/people, animals and bush medicines spread over different landscapes of red dirt, green grass, bush land and coastal areas to tell the story of the many ways country can and has healed us throughout our lives and journeys.



facebook.com/NAIDOC [#naidocweek](https://twitter.com/naidocweek) [#naidocweek](https://instagram.com/naidocweek)

NAIDOC Week

4-11 JULY 2021



#NAIDOC2021 #HealCountry

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are invited to participate in NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate the spirit and resilience of our people and to learn about their rich and diverse cultures. NAIDOC Week is a time to celebrate the spirit and resilience of our people and to learn about their rich and diverse cultures.

Many of our students have been learning the meanings behind the symbols in this wonderful poster 'Care for Country', which was designed by Gubbi Gubbi artist Maggie-Jean Douglas.

Kindergarten and Year 1

Kindy and Year 1 read Warnayarra – Rainbow Snake and participated in various literacy and art activities including making and decorating clay rainbow snakes.

We learnt some wonderful greetings in Wiradjuri and Ngarigu languages.

Caring for Country – with the theme ‘Heal Country’ we explored ways we can look after places in our school and the benefits of using native plants. In particular we have explored the native plant ‘Garinlii’ or Lomandra using the National Museum of Australia Resource ‘Knowing Plants’. We discovered the Indigenous knowledge about this plant and selected places in our school that could be improved with some garinlii. Kindy and Year 1 look forward to planting some garinlii in Term 3 to help care for the Country that our school is on.

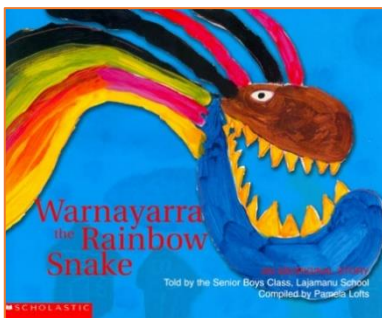
Throughout the week we listened to some first nations bedtime stories -a selection of Dreaming stories told by First Nations elders and knowledge custodians.

We had lots of giggles watching Little Jay and Big Cuz, an animated series following the everyday life of two Indigenous children.

We explored the art of the 2021 NAIDOC poster and identified many Aboriginal symbols and meanings.

Year 1 watched a story about a bushland reserve land revegetation on Dharug & Gundungurra Country. The land was once a car racing track and has now been handed back to the Aboriginal custodians and local community for regeneration.

We finished the week by reading ‘Johnny Cakes’ written by Uncle Ronny on Daharug Country and followed the recipe to make Johnny Cakes. They were delicious!





HEAL COUNTRY!

4-11 JULY 2021

NAIDOC Week in 2/3S

During our NAIDOC week celebrations, we looked at a series of texts from the 'Our Land Our Stories' series. We looked at 3 children, Josie, Orlando and Shae. Josie is from the Torres Strait and lives on Thursday Island. Orlando lives in a small community in the middle of Western Australia in the Great Victoria Desert and Shae lives on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. We learnt about their people, their culture, and their Country.

We also studied the amazing books by renowned indigenous artist and fashion designer Bronwyn Bancroft. After looking at her colourful designs and talking about intricate patterns, which are found everywhere in the environment, we made 2 very distinct pieces of art. The first was a bird's eye view of road construction and man-made buildings and the second was about the magical boab trees. We used etching papers to create our vastly different works of art.

We also made a joint class mural. We were given pages of paper that had designs on them and after we had coloured them in, we put them together like pieces of a jigsaw to create a mural with the theme for 2021 'Heal Country' on it. The backwall of our classroom is a blast of colour and creative designs.



NAIDOC Week in 3/4M

This year's theme of 'Heal Country' resonated well with 3/4M. All students were very keen to share their ideas and opinions about climate change and how it affects people. We learnt how changes to Australia over the last 200 years have affected First Nations communities. Students watched, listened, and participated with stories that explained the connection that first nation people have with their culture, heritage, and country. We explored questions such as: What is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' relationship with Country? Why do you think we need to heal Country? What do you think we can do to heal Country? Students talked about possible solutions and changes that needed to be made.

The week culminated by creating an artwork that showed connection to Country through animals, plants, lakes, rivers, the sun, and moon. Surrounding these images were the handprints of 3/4M in the shape of Australia symbolising our commitment to Country.



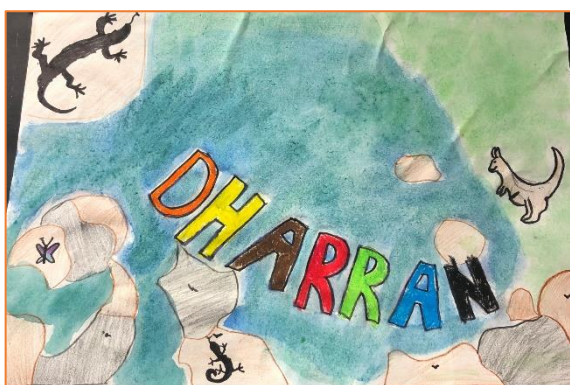
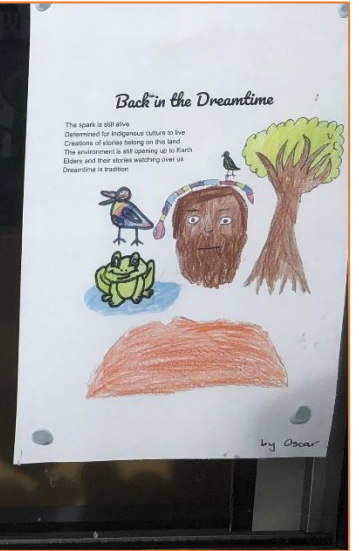
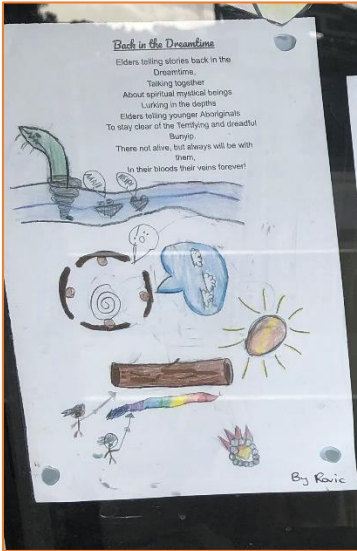
NAIDOC Week in 4/5G

4/5G really enjoyed celebrating NAIDOC Week this year, as we learnt all about this year's theme, 'Heal Country'. We began our week watching some of the livestream videos created with the Department of Education. Students learnt how they could go about Healing Country, for example by learning about their local areas and strengthening their own understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, or by planting native trees to regenerate the traditional lands.

We used NAIDOC week as the basis for our writing unit on Poetry, creating some really moving poems entitled 'Back in the Dreamtime' for a NAIDOC competition. Students spent time engaging with Dreamtime Stories and learning about their importance and how they connect to Country. We watched many animated Dreamtime Stories, including those on 'Dust Echoes' by ABC Education. Our poems created our window display this year, so we could share them with everyone. We also created artistic poems from the text 'Stolen Girl' by Trina Saffioti, a text which we also explored in detail as we learnt about Visual Literacy.

Finally, students spent time engaging with the AECG's Languages app on the iPads, learning how to pronounce words in Wiradjuri, one of our local languages. Students enjoyed using the dictionary feature, as it read the word aloud so we could learn about the differences in pronunciation between English and Wiradjuri. Once we had explored this language, students selected a word that appealed to them and brought this to life in an artwork to celebrate language. The results were incredible!





NAIDOC Week in 5/6R

5/6R started the week by watching a smoking ceremony to acknowledge NAIDOC Week. We learnt about this year's theme, 'Healing Country'. We listened to Luke Carroll's indigenous stories on YouTube and watched several 'Dream Time' stories throughout the week. Our favourite activity was watching ABC Education to learn how to say Hello in Wiradjuri and Ngarigu languages. This became our own morning greetings.

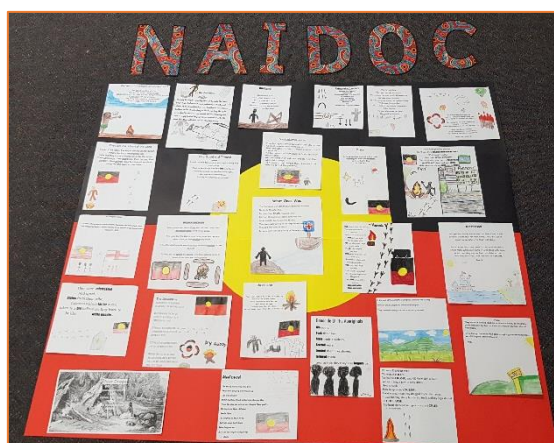
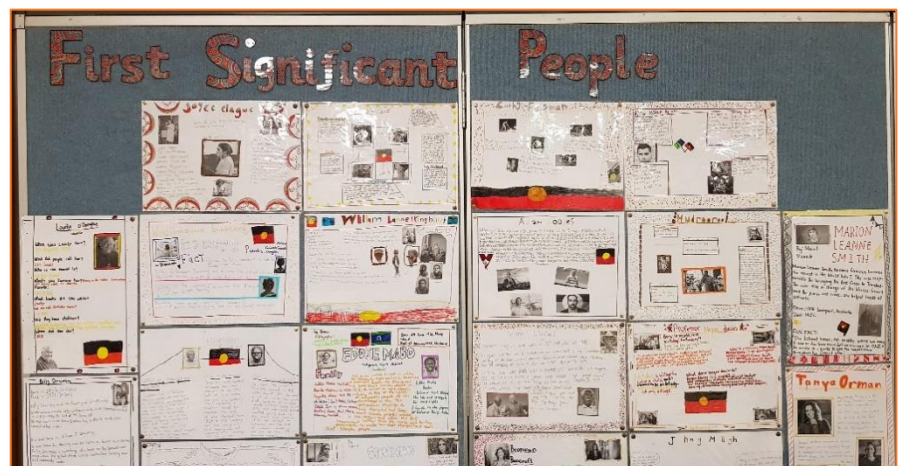
5/6R researched a 'First Significant Person' and wrote individual reports to share with the class. Some of our Famous Significant People were Neville Bonner, Albert Namatjira, Archie Roach, Vincent Linguini, Cathy Freeman, Eddie Mabo, and Tanya Orman just to name a few. The students created some outstanding reports which are now on display in the classroom.

We read Anthony Hill's 'Burnt Stick', which explores the topic of The Stolen Generation. The story showed the journey of a young Aboriginal boy being taken away from his family to live in the mission to learn 'white man's way of life'. The students then wrote letters to Prime Ministers past and present to persuade them of how wrong this policy was. The main themes in their letters were everyone deserves the right to be valued, loved, respected, and listened to. These letters were extremely powerful.

Students then created poems to describe their feelings to go with the Burnt Stick. 5/6R then created the Aboriginal Flag and pasted their poems on it, which then created a book of 5/6R's poems. Throughout the week 5/6R have read many texts that explore the Indigenous culture and they have written book reviews in pairs about their favourite book.


For art, students were asked to create their favourite Australian animal and paint it as Aboriginal rock art or to create a story using only symbols. These creations are proudly displayed in 5/6R's room.

5/6R 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.



JOHN JAGAMARRA

Nobody saw the two policemen get out, and walk slowly across to the sleeping camp....



John Jagamarra fell worried and sad when the women were pulling on the ash.

John Jagamarra loved his mother so when his was taken he was so upset.

John Jagamarra almost got caught by the big man from welfare on his first trip.

John Jagamarra had a spiritual connection with the land.

John Jagamarra was very young when he was taken.

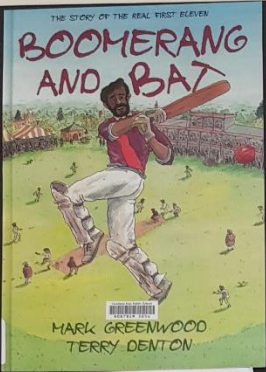
John Jagamarra was taken by the big man from welfare.

John Jagamarra was shocked and scared when the big man came.

When John Jagamarra was taken he was very hopeless and scared.

He was disguised by Liyan. Liyan rubbed a burnt stick on his skin to look like his skin was darker.

The Turnt Stick



By Will C and Harry. The story of the real first eleven Boomerang And Bat By Mark Greenwood & Terry Denton


"It was very engaging and also very detailed."

"Terry Denton's illustrations made the book 1 million times better."

"This story about the real first 11 is really bold and even though I didn't finish it, it's just a great story"

"Boori Monty Pryor," inaugural Australian Children's Laureate.

Harry 9/10 Will 8.5/10



Coming Home to Country. This book is suitable for all ages. It has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections. It uses great use of colours. It has good use of vocab. This book is a great book, and suitable for all ages. ☆☆☆☆ 4/5 by Alice & Pip

Liyan

Liyan is a loyal woman of her tribe. She is our protector of her son.

Liyan is a strong, independent woman.


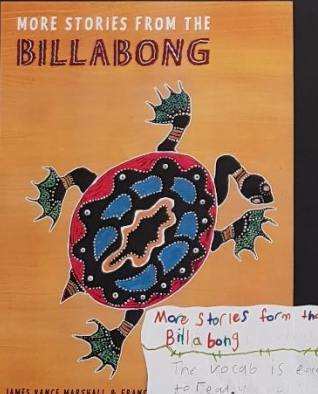
Liyan was very smart and proud of her country.

Liyan protects her son. She was very strong. She was not afraid.

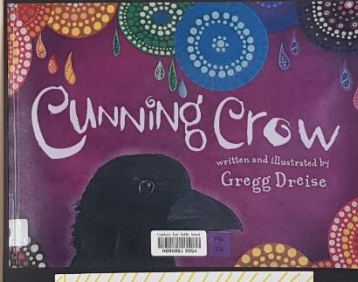
Liyan was very smart and proud of her country.

Liyan was very smart and proud of her country.

Liyan was very smart and proud of her country.

More Stories from the Billabong. The vocab is easy to learn. The pictures were exquisite. It was based around the dreamtime. There are many great aboriginal stories.



Cunning Crow Book Review - Marcel and Indy

The cunning crow is a fantastic book! We recommend this book to year 5 and 6 children.

The author, Gregg Dreise has drawn really vivid and bright drawings and the vocab is not bad.

If we rated this book we would give it a... 5 star!

★★★★★

Why would we give it a 5 star? Well... because the book contains lots of unique words, beautiful pictures and it is not boring to read. I totally recommend this book!

