ST FRANCIS XAVIER PS RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Artist: Jenna Oldaker, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner
Title: Bundjil's Turt-Barram/Bundjil's Star

2024

Bundjil's Turt-Barram/Bundjil's Star

THIS BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK BY JENNA OLDAKER WAS CREATED IN CONSULTATION WITH A GROUP OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHILDREN IN 2022. THE CHILDREN FROM FOUNDATION TO YEAR 6 WORKED WITH JENNA TO FORMULATE IDEAS FOR THE ARTWORK.

Artwork Description: Bundjil the eagle is the spirit creator of Wadawurrung Country, as he created our land, people and all living things. When Bundjil was finished creating the land, he then taught the people on the land how to live, and to take only what they needed. Bundjil then gathered his wives and children, and instructed Bellin-Bellin (the musk crow and creator of wind) to open his bag and let out all the wind. The wind was so strong that it carried Bundjil and his family to the heavens where they now live as stars looking down on us all, as we continue to live safely on Wadawurrung land.

In the top right-hand corner Bundjil can be seen flying high over Wadawurrung land, as we send thanks to him for continuing to watch over us since his creation. Surrounding Bundjil is the constellation of stars, of which he is now one, along with his family.

In the centre of the artwork is our land Country, surrounded by our water Country including our coastal Country, rivers and wetlands. Within the land Country are the symbols for meeting place, a place where we can all come together to yarn and share stories. The meeting place is also a symbol of community and spirit, as we are reminded that we all need to come together to help care for one another, and this land we call home. In the very centre is the Sisters of Mercy, as we thank them for their kindness and service.

In the top left-hand corner is the beautiful Wadawurrung sun, rising high in the sky as it provides us with warmth, healing and life. The two large arches at the bottom of the artwork symbolise Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip, two cultural significant places on Wadawurrung Country.

As we travel across Wadawurrung Country from left to right, we can see an echidna, echidna tracks, foot prints, eucalyptus leaves, cherry ballart, a kangaroo, kangaroo tracks, and the classic U shapes symbolising people. As Wadawurrung people have cared for this land for thousands of years, the Country has reciprocated and cared for us providing healthy and nourished land and water, allowing us to create new life and spirit.

Nyatne (Thank You)

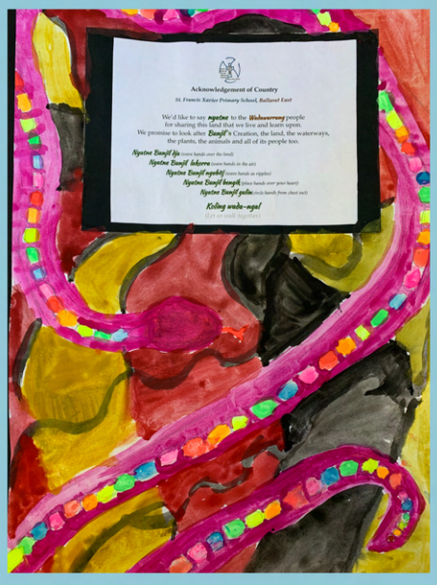
St Francis Xavier Primary School
Student Composed
Acknowledgement of Country

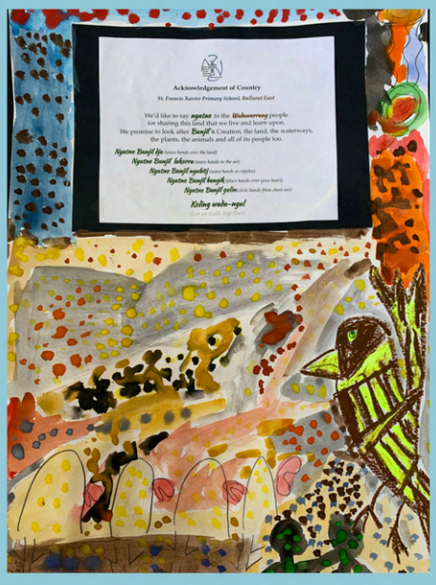
We'd like to say nyatne to the Wadawurrung people for sharing this land that we live and learn upon. We promise to look after Bundjil's Creation, the land, the waterways, the plants, the animals and all of its people too.

Nyatne Bundjil dja *(wave hands over the land)*
Nyatne Bundjil lakorra *(wave hands in the air)*
Nyatne Bundjil ngubitj *(wave hands as ripples)*
Nyatne Bundjil bengik *(place hands over your heart)*
Nyatne Bundjil gulin *(circle hands from chest out)*

Koling wada-ngal
(Let us walk together)

OUR 2024 RAP LEADERS DEMONSTRATING OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY





OUR VISION:

St Francis Xavier Primary School community is proud and humble to be on Wadawurrung Country. We pledge to build respectful relationships with the Traditional Custodians of this Land who have nurtured and cared for Country for tens of thousands of years. We will work to build a culturally safe and inclusive environment for present and emerging generations, where reconciliation is valued and embraced. As a learning community with open hearts and minds, we commit to deepening our knowledge and understanding of the diverse histories, cultures and stories of First Nations Peoples and to continuously learn from their wisdom.

Artwork created by 2023 St Francis Xavier Primary School Students
Title: Bundjil Flying Over Buninyong and Warrenheip

RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships in the Classroom

- We commit to planning and implementing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in the classroom.

Relationships Around the School

- The school is committed to forging a meaningful and ongoing relationship with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, and people recognised in their community as Traditional Owners.
- Staff are supported to reflect on and build their cultural responsiveness to improve their practice and best support the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- Our school will collaborate on projects that visibly and authentically embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in learning programs and the physical environment.

Relationships with Community

- Where appropriate, significant events at our school will commence with a Welcome to Country.
- Our school community celebrates National Reconciliation Week (NRW) by talking about reconciliation in the classroom and around the school and celebrating with the community.
- We commit to building relationships with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community that are built on mutual respect, trust and inclusiveness.
- Our programs provide ways for children and students to learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, contributions and cultures, in and outside the classroom.

NAIDOC

RESPECT

Respect in the Classroom

- We are committed to learning and teaching about Reconciliation in Australia.
- We commit to incorporating nationally significant days for Aboriginal and Torres Strait. Islander peoples and Reconciliation into our curriculum to increase knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, contributions and contemporary issues.
- We raise awareness of current affairs and issues in the public domain that are of particular significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of Reconciliation.

Respect Around the School

- Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow.
- We make our respect visible in the learning environment through the incorporation of meaningful, relevant and culturally appropriate art, artefacts and symbolism reinforcing our work toward reconciliation.
- We are committed to actively connecting with, and caring for, the Country/place on which our school stands.

Respect with Community

- Our school flies or displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as a demonstration of our pride and respect for the histories, cultures and contributions of Australia's First Peoples.
- Our school proudly commits to displaying a physical Acknowledgement of Country as a way of showing awareness of, and respect for, the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our school is located.
- Our school is proud to launch our RAP at an event that recognises the efforts of the working group and celebrates our school or service's commitment to reconciliation.

OPPORTUNITY

Opportunities in the Classroom

- All staff from across the school are supported to understand and embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures in the curriculum.
- We embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in curriculum planning, development and evaluation processes across all year levels and learning areas.

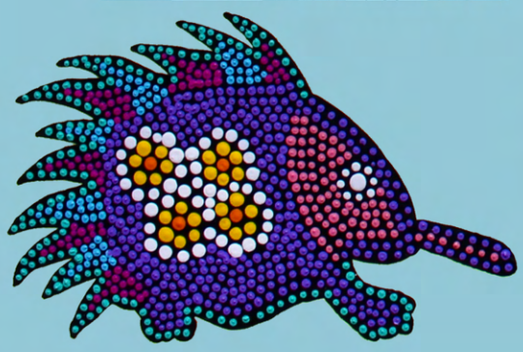
Opportunities Around the School

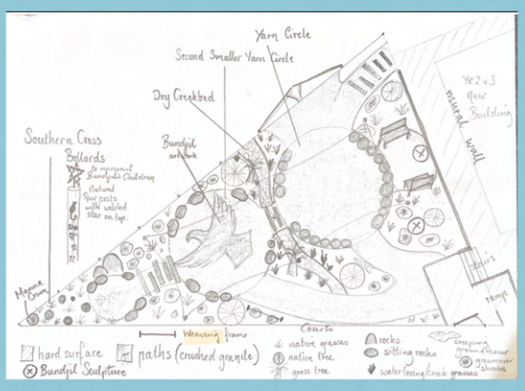
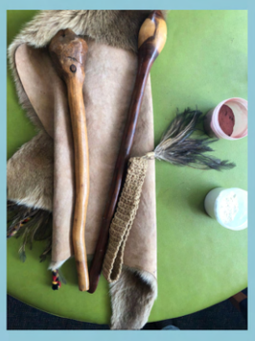
- All staff in our school are aware of policies that refer specifically to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and increasing knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia.
- All staff are committed to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to ensure that it is implemented in a meaningful and sustainable way.
- We have set aside dedicated funds from within our budget to procure relevant goods and services that strengthen the sustainability of our RAP actions.

Opportunities with Community

- We commit to learning more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions of the Country on which we live, work, learn and play, by working with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to learn about events of historical and cultural significance and visit appropriate sites.
- We are committed to reflecting on the progress made in the growth of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in our school.
- We commit to providing students and children with a deeper knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and identities by learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

MISSY
HIGGINS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and a wonderful support to us on our journey- Jenna Oldaker, Aunty Joy Oldaker, Macaylah Johnson
RAP Leaders- Jacinta Molloy, Sarah Page, Rose Russell
2024 RAP Working Group- Georgia Hudson, Miki Vranesic, Michael Lawlor, Elisha Martin, Christine Meneely, Mark Hogbin
Past Contributors- Dan West, Jane Clark, Bernadette Luckman, Cath Pearson, Paul Bissinella, Fiona Dodd, Brittany Curtain
Special Thanks To- Nick from Mac Gardens for his work on our Indigenous Garden and to Victor Vranesic for donating the paint for our mural.