



Deputy Principal Report

We have had another busy term here at WRCS, with the highlight of the term being our excursion to Canberra during Week 5. Throughout this term, students have been on several excursions and staff have completed various professional learning courses. During the term many students have achieved awards as part of our positive reward program.

WRCS students have represented our school on numerous occasions this term, with staff receiving positive feedback on our students' behaviour and attitude. We have attended the Neighbourhood Community Day, Reconciliation Cup, the movies as a Shout Out Reward, TAFE for Reconciliation Week, and TAFE to learn about courses they offer. Various guests have joined the school this term including Mrs Goolagong for Sorry Day, Sophie (and Amalia) and Lyn to share birthing stories with Exploring Early Childhood, WRCC staff for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea and various presenters for the Love Bites program, among others. Students who earned their bronze rewards had their Boost/Milkshake reward, and on the last day of term students will have the opportunity to go on their Silver Reward lunch.

Our excursion to Canberra was a very busy three days. This gave the students an opportunity to build on their learning about Conflict during the PBL week in term 1. We visited the Australian War Memorial and walked along ANZAC parade, CSIRO Discovery Centre, AIS, Parliament House, Questacon and the National Education Centre. The accommodation was very nice, the food delicious and the staff lovely, they even ran a fun challenge evening for our students. The other schools staying at our accommodation, along with the staff, provided us with high praise for our students' behaviour.

We now have five teachers who have completed training in The Berry Street Education Module, we are introducing further strategies to assist our students in engaging in the school environment. Last term we introduced Circle Time at the start of the day as a way for all our school to come together, celebrate positives and share announcements. In addition, we have introduced Brain Breaks - which are short-burst, student-centred, regulatory activities in the middle of our lessons. This term we have added to Circle Time Positive Primers to prepare students for learning activities. In recent weeks, and continuing into next term, we have begun spending time working with students as to what our values of Respect, Responsibility and Positivity look like in various settings such as in the classroom.

Next term we have a number of activities planned for our students. These include seeing various productions at the Griffith Regional Theatre, celebrating NAIDOC week and taking Stage 6 students on an excursion to Sydney to help them in developing life skills with regards to travelling. We will also be partaking in a PBL week of study on Sustainability in preparation for our Term 4 excursion to the Snowy Mountains.

It is with sadness that we have said goodbye to two of our Classroom Support Officers, Alison Quinn and Sue Hone. They have been instrumental in the establishment of WRCS and will be sorely missed, especially by our students. We have welcomed Cathy Cottom, Krystal Birmingham and Rebecca Codemo to our staff as Classroom Support Officers.

I wish everyone a restful and safe holiday and am looking forward to seeing everyone return to school on Tuesday 13 July 2021 rejuvenated and positive about a new term.

Ann Pretty, Deputy Principal



Student Activities

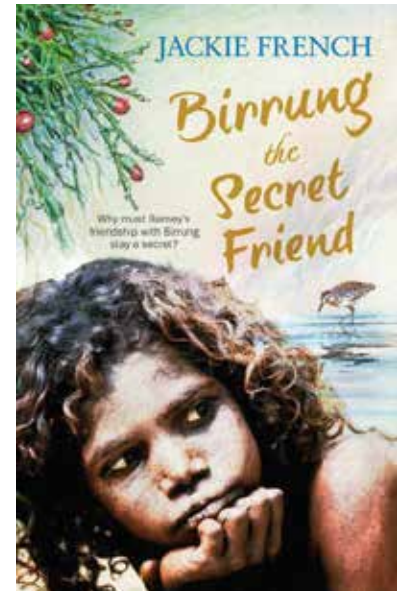
English

Stage 5 English

This term our Stage 5 students have studied *Birrung the Secret Friend*, a novel by Jackie French and *Honey Spot*, a play by Jack Davis. Through engagement with the texts, students have explored how relationships have changed between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia. Students also evaluated the ways in which meaning is conveyed in both texts.

For their assessment, students will be required to listen to a short extract from each text, before completing a series of questions. They will then complete a profile on a character of their choosing.

Kirsty Wood and Ben Knight, Stage 5 English Teachers



Year 11 English

Throughout term 2, Year 11 students have studied *English and the Self*. Students examined how the lives and experiences of others help us to develop and understand our own identity and self-worth. They have engaged with a variety of written and oral narratives to develop their knowledge, understanding and appreciation of how language is used to convey meaning.

For their assessment task, students composed an original life story narrative exploring the experiences, challenges and achievements of an individual of their choosing, supported by a composition of appropriate visuals which represent significant aspects of the life story.

Kirsty Wood, Year 11 English Teacher



Novels studied by Stage 5 English students.

Year 12 English

Earlier this term, Year 12 English Studies completed a unit on how digital texts have the potential to change and inform our world. Students did an amazing job at analysing the complexities of the film *The Matrix* and how this film has raised ethical questions about our relationship with and dependency on technology. For their assessment task, students had to write a narrative about a transition from the real world into the digital, this was completed to an excellent standard by all students!

In the latter part of the term, students investigated how film makers utilise specific techniques to create meanings for their audiences. Early next term, students will create a storyboard for a film trailer using their newfound knowledge.

Ben Knight, Year 12 English Teacher



Student Activities *Continued*

Mathematics

Stage 5 Mathematics

This term, Stage 5 students completed the unit Probability. In this unit they had to calculate relative frequencies to estimate probabilities of simple and compound events. Students constructed tree diagrams and two-way tables in order to list the possible outcomes for two and three-step chance experiments. Students' understanding of the content was assessed in an end of unit topic test before they began a short revision of Single Variable Data Analysis.

Kirsty Wood and Brenda McKinnon, Stage 5 Mathematics Teachers

Year 11 Mathematics

This term Year 11 investigated the areas of probability and data analysis. Our main project for the term was the study of a range of rugby league data. Students collected results and scores within a large time frame. Students then used this data to determine relative frequencies of winning over the years. They also used various methods of graphing and analysis to interpret the data collected.

Through their studies of statistics students developed an understanding of the contribution that statistical thinking makes to decision-making in society and in the professional and personal lives of individuals.

Brenda McKinnon, Year 11 Mathematics Teacher

Year 12 Mathematics

Year 12 commenced term 2 on a similar basis as Year 11, investigating a variety of methods in data analysis used to interpret rugby league data.

During the second half of the term students undertook a relatively new area of study titled 'Networks'. This interesting unit involved using the graphical representation and modelling of situations as an approach to the decision-making process.

The study of networks is seen as an important step in developing a students' ability to interpret a set of connections, or sequence of tasks as a concise diagram in order to solve related problems. The knowledge of networks that students have gained will enable them to develop a logical sequence of tasks and have a clear understanding of connections between people or items.

Brenda McKinnon, Year 12 Mathematics Teacher



Student Activities *Continued*

Science

Stage 5 Science

In Science this term Stage 5 students completed a unit on Evolution and begun a unit on Light Sound and Action. While studying Evolution students watched an episode of Unnatural Selection. This looked at recently developed scientific technologies and their possible uses in modifying the genomes of organisms.

Whilst on excursion to Canberra students visited Questacon and CSIRO which gave them an excellent introduction to the light and sound aspects of the unit on Light Sound and Action. This together with the new equipment purchased is enabling students to gain an understanding of both the practical and theoretical aspects of energy and particle behaviour in light and sound.

Ann Pretty, Stage 5 Science Teacher

PDHPE

Stage 5 PDHPE

During Term 2, Stage 5 students explored the units 'Building Identity and Relationships' and 'Commit to be Fit'.

The theory unit 'Building Identity and Relationships' commenced with the LOVE BITES program. The program consisted of two interactive education workshops on Domestic and Family Violence and Sexual Assault followed by creative workshops that consolidated the information from the morning. Male and female facilitators presented the program as a team and modelled respectful relationships between male and female students, teachers and workers.

Our 'Commit to be Fit' unit involved the exploration of components of speed, strength and power vital to our overall fitness. Students designed and began to implement group fitness programs in which the whole class participated in.

Stage 5 also had the opportunity to participate in the annual Netball Reconciliation Cup held during Reconciliation Week. Nine of our students chose to participate and had a great day of netball with mixed cultures from a variety of local and regional schools.

Brenda McKinnon, Stage 5 PDHPE Teacher



*Students **designed** and began to implement group **fitness programs** in which the whole class participated*





Student Activities *Continued*

Society and Culture

Stage 6 Society and Culture

Earlier this term in Society and Culture, students engaged in their assessment on the 'Social and Cultural World'. This required them to engage in a hands-on research task where they investigated such topics as peer relationships and family conflicts. Every student was both a participant in someone else's research as well as a leader of their own sociological investigation. Well done to all students on their efforts. I was quite impressed by the quality and depth of the final reports and the ethical and mature way that students conducted research overall.

Throughout the latter half of term 2, students have been investigating how our personal and social identities are shaped. It has been amazing to see how astutely students are able to self-reflect and discuss the ways that their own identities are shaped on a daily basis. We are about to complete a film study on Nell, starring Jodie Foster, where we will investigate whether it is our upbringing or our biology that makes us who are.

Ben Knight, Stage 6 Society and Culture Teacher



*Every student was both a **participant** in someone else's research as well as a leader of their own **sociological** investigation*



Student Activities *Continued*

Friday Program

Film Making

Students were put in director's chair during this term's interest elective on filmmaking. Under the guidance of material developed by NextWave Film Festival for young adults, students engaged in the process of creating a film from beginning to end. Students produced a treatment for a story, a draft script, as well as a storyboard for scenes to be filmed. Later in the term, students will complete principal photography, a term that means taking photographs of where key scenes will be shot. I look forward to seeing the final polished films at the end of next term!

Ben Knight, Friday Program - Film Making



Hydro Dipping.

WRCS Art and Craft Store

During our Friday program, Stage 5 students created the WRCS Art and Craft Store. Throughout the course of this year, students will be planning and producing a variety of products which they plan to sell to raise funds for a basketball hoop and a fun day out. So far this term, students have hydro dipped coffee mugs, tie-dyed various fabric items, and created some geometric artwork. All items plus many more will be available to purchase at an end of year fair to be hosted by the students.

Kirsty Wood, Friday Program - WRCS Art and Craft Store

Student Activities *Continued*

Work Studies

Stage 6 Work Studies

In Term 2 students worked on the unit Managing Work and Life Commitments. The following topics were covered:

- Managing Work and Life Commitments
- Rewards from Work, Work-Life Challenges

We have recently subscribed to and begun using a dedicated website for careers. The site can be accessed by students and parents via www.wrcscareers.com

The website has a lot of helpful information regarding career related events, scholarships and other information.

Students visited the Neighbourhood Centre several times this term. They participated in community events and are making positive connections. Students helped to tend to, plant, water and maintain gardens. They also enjoyed Indian cooking.

WRCS Project Class

This term we have focused on the letter R which led us into interesting discussions and themes. We are currently learning about recycling and how we can participate in recycling at school and at home.

Emma Munro, Stage 6 Work Studies Teacher



Exploring Early Childhood

Stage 6 Exploring Early Childhood

At the beginning of Term 2 Stage 6 Exploring Early Childhood studied the stages of birth. Several guest speakers visited the class to share their birth stories. These stories certainly opened the students' eyes to what happens during the birth of children. The students greatly appreciated the guests giving up their time to talk with them. Subsequently, students have moved on to learning how babies develop. Beginning with understanding how developed a baby's senses are when they are born and how they become attached to the important people in their world.

Ann Pretty, Stage 6 Exploring Early Childhood Teacher



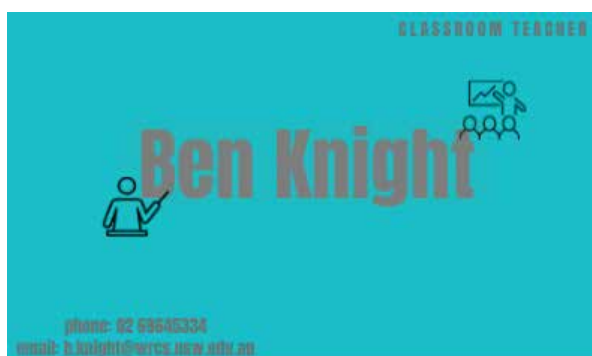
Student Activities *Continued*

Visual Design

Stage 6 Visual Design

Stage 6 Visual Design students have been involved in graphic design this term. Students experimented with design elements, creating posters and designing business cards for members of staff. Students are currently working on pages for a school magazine - stay tuned to see their amazing designs!

Sue Tyrrell, Stage 6 Visual Design Teacher





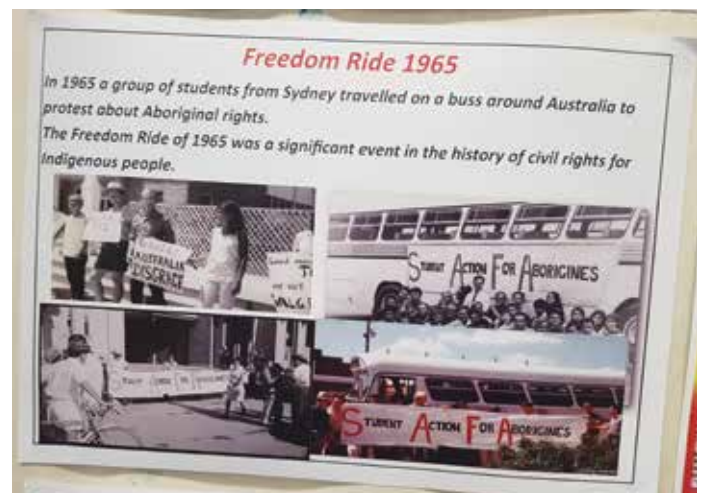
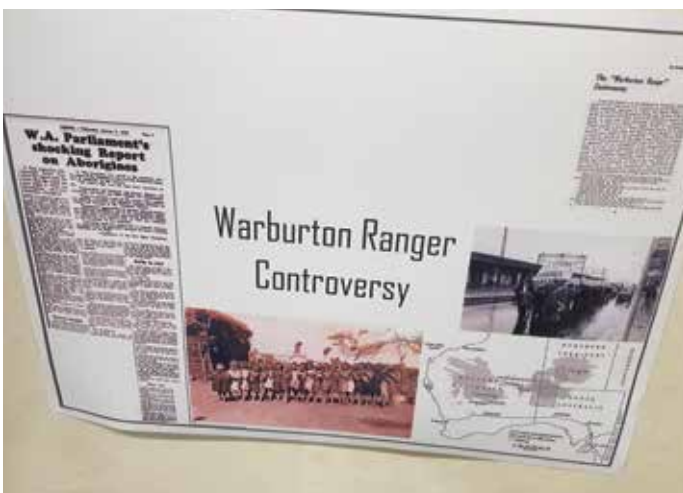
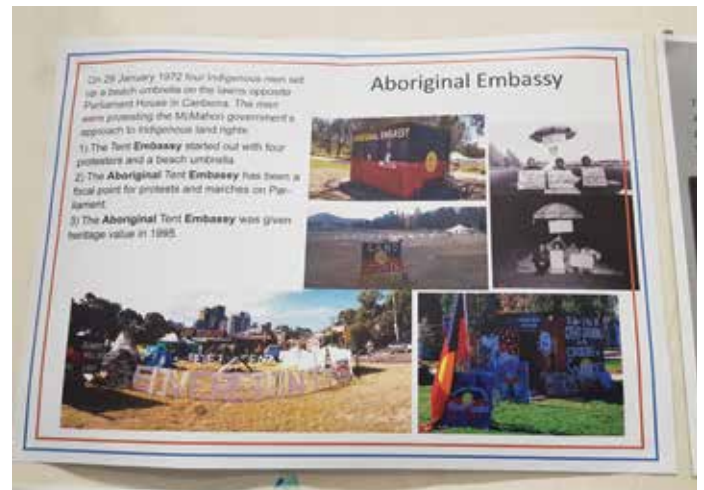
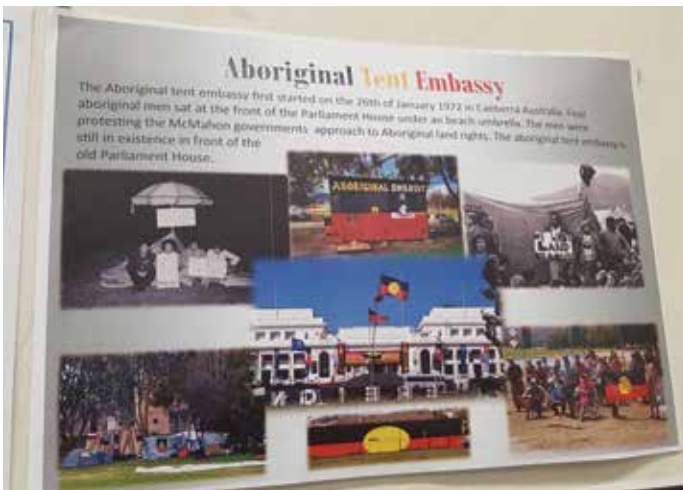
Student Activities *Continued*

History

Stage 5 History

This term our Stage 5 historians at Western Riverina Community School have been investigating how human rights and freedoms have changed over the last 100 years. They have interpreted how the Freedom Rides and other civil rights movements led to the end of racial segregation in Australia and the USA. Each student produced a fantastic essay on how Eddie Mabo's fight for Native Title changed the public's perception of the idea of Australia pre-colonisation and led to the right of Aboriginals to claim land rights over their ancestral lands. They also created some amazing posters depicting different conflicts for rights and freedoms around Australia.

Sue Tyrrell and Ben Knight, Stage 5 History Teachers



Examples of posters created by Stage 5 Students.

Wellbeing Report

Throughout Term 2 Wellbeing lessons, students continued their work from Term 1 regarding healthy relationships and personal boundaries. Students learnt to identify and utilise their personal strengths and values and apply these to their personal and school relationships. The students have now begun to work through some resources and activities from "R U OK?".

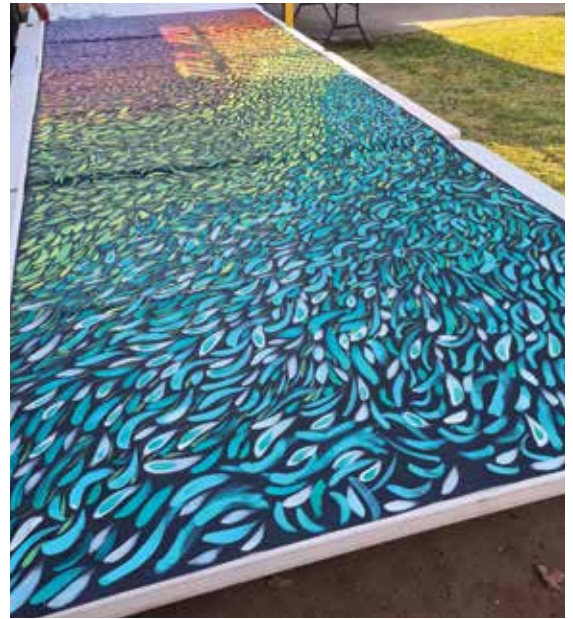
Our WRCS teaching staff attended an interactive education event that brought staff from different schools together to connect and learn about R U OK? resources. Our teachers learnt about how to have meaningful conversations with both colleagues and students, and how to transfer these skills to our students through valuable R U OK resources.

In Week 2, our students were involved in "Elevate 2021" at the PCYC. This Youth Week event was a day funded by Murrumbidgee Public Health Network and Griffith City Council in partnership with 'Grow Our Own', PCYC, Headspace, Intereach and Il Corso Café. Our students joined Marion Catholic College and Murrumbidgee Regional High School students for a day of fun and wellbeing. During the day, our students had the opportunity to experience activities including self-defence, creative writing, mural painting and learning about wellbeing and mental health. Our students had a fantastic day and enjoyed meeting new people and gaining valuable skills.

On ANZAC Day, our senior student Alex Fazakerley-Sayers along with Sue Tyrell attended the Griffith ANZAC Day service where they laid a wreath on behalf of WRCS. Alex did a fantastic job and should be commended for volunteering his time on the day.

In Week 2, Mayor John Dal Broi and his staff attended our assembly to present leadership awards to our four School Captains. Our Captains were selected by our student cohort as students who consistently demonstrate the core values of our school: Respect, Responsibility and Positivity.

On the 26th of May, we held a Sorry Day Assembly to acknowledge and remember the mistreatment of our country's Indigenous peoples, as part of an ongoing process of reconciliation between the Indigenous peoples and the settler population. Some of our students performed a traditional dance and shared songs written and performed by Australian Indigenous artists. All students should be very proud of the respectful way that Sorry Day was acknowledged in our school.



Mural Painting.



Students participating in self-defence class.



Creative writing activity.



Wellbeing Report *Continued*

On the 4th of June, our students hosted a 'Biggest Morning Tea' to raise money for Cancer Council Australia. Students cooked and prepared a range of cakes, slices and sandwiches and invited members of the College to come and share a meal with them. Our students should be very proud of their growing confidence in the kitchen and the money that they raised for a valuable charity. I would like to give a HUGE thank you to Sue Hone who organised the day, provided raffle prizes and cooked for days! The day was a great success, and the school \$210.30.

Lastly, I would like to say goodbye to Sue Hone and Alison Quinn who are leaving our school. Both ladies have been valuable staff members since 2018. This year Alison and Sue have been a part of the Wellbeing team, providing emotional and social support to our students. I'm sure that they will be missed by both staff and students.

Jasmine Dossetor, Wellbeing Teacher



Our Captains and Mayor John Dal Broi.