

Bridgewater Kindergarten Reconciliation Week 2020

27th May 2020 until 4th June 2020 is Reconciliation week. In this week Australia celebrates Indigenous history and culture.

Learning about and engaging in discussions and activities around Aboriginal people and their culture is a part of every day at Bridgewater Kindergarten. Our 2020 Quality Improvement Plan goal is **“Building cultural competence in relation to children's understanding of Aboriginal culture and perspectives within the context of our site.”**

Bridgewater Kindergarten is situated on Kurna land. There are also strong links with the Peramangk nation.

Yarning circle/ Morning meeting.

We start each morning with our Yarning Circle. This is a time to greet each other and share news. We start by Acknowledging Country with our own Acknowledgement developed with the children. As we check who is at kindy we say Niina Marni, Kurna for hello. [Perhaps you could start using this at home!](#)

The meeting mat that we sit on is an Aboriginal design that signifies people sitting together.

Paintyi-Illa Ngangkiparri

We are so privileged to have our very own Bushland. Uncle Ivan Tiwi Copley, Kurna and Peramangk Elder has given our Bushland a Kurna/ Peramangk name. Paintyi-Illa Ngangkiparri means, alongside the Onkapinga.

We visit Paintyi-illa Ngangkiparri weekly, weather permitting. We enjoy exploring, noticing changes, discovering plants and creatures, listening and noticing.

Have you noticed?

When you walk around Pintyi-illa Ngangkiparri look down. Evie's Dad Dan has been busy digging holes and cementing in posts to install our new signs, identifying plants, including information about Aboriginal uses for the plants.

We have also created signs inviting the local community to explore our Bushland.

Governing Council is planning a celebration "opening" Paintyi-illa Ngankiparri including an Aboriginal smoking ceremony later in the year, COVID-19 restrictions allowing.

Daily Programme

What will you see in the kindergarten to encourage children to engage in positive Aboriginal learning experiences?

Our book area always includes books by Aboriginal authors and about Aboriginal people.

We always include Aboriginal puzzles, either including Aboriginal art or depicting traditional and contemporary Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal flag flies in the kindergarten. We are currently purchasing a Torres Strait Islander flag to display.

Our matching games often include Aboriginal designs, there are often Aboriginal symbols in our writing space, we sing songs including Aboriginal songs, you may have heard the children singing Inanay, an Aboriginal lullaby.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=yxW57WzrTY>



Reconciliation Action Plan

Staff are currently working together to formalize our Reconciliation Action Plan. This is allowing us to consider our own knowledge, gaps in our understandings, available resources and ways to lead positively for our own learning and family and children's learning.

Tuesday June 2nd is our Pupil Free Day.

Staff are working with Gowrie trainers around Aboriginal perspectives and how they embed it into their preschool rooms.

