



Christ Church Celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture with Art Exhibition and Dance Performance

Christ Church Grammar School students and staff have been participating in a school-wide art project in recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Starting during Reconciliation Week last term and taking the form of a 6m by 2m mural on canvas, the artwork celebrates the Christ Church community's family backgrounds and the six Noongar seasons.

Students and staff were invited to draw their family tree, in the season in which they were born, using the corresponding colours for that season.

The mural is split up into the six seasons, each represented by select colours.

- Birak (December and January) is red
- Bunuru (February and March) is brown
- Djeran (April and May) is green
- Makuru (June and July) is blue
- Djilba (August and September) is purple
- Kambarang (October and November) is yellow

Participants used dots, lines, circles, and traditional Aboriginal symbology to represent their families.

The artwork was created in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from St Catherine's College Dandjoo Darbalung program, led by Ngadju Mirning Noongar artist Andrew Beck.

The School celebrates NAIDOC Week during Week 3 of Term 3 each year; this year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have been participating in traditional dance lessons with Wilman, Balardong, Binjareb, Wadjuk Nyoongar artist, and friend of the School, Olman Walley.

The lessons will culminate in a performance during Senior and Preparatory School Assemblies, giving the boys the opportunity to celebrate and share their culture with their family, friends and peers.

Christ Church Grammar School Principal Alan Jones said the art project was a wonderful reflection of the diversity of the Christ Church community,

“The boys and staff were encouraged to paint their family trees in a way that represented what their families meant to them,” he said.

“The result was beautiful depictions of the strong women in the boys’ lives and modern family configurations using shapes, symbols and animals.”

Christ Church Grammar School Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program Co-ordinator Samuel Wallace said he was encouraged by the uptake of the project,

“Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys were really the ones who facilitated this project,” he said.

“They were responsible for explaining how the project worked to each of the participants as well as overseeing and facilitating the painting.”

“Reconciliation Week is a time to reflect and share, so this activity, completed throughout Term 2, was a perfect way to bring the school community together to share and learn about each other.”

For further information:

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