



MOOMBAKI CULTURAL LEARNINGS

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

**BIRAK 2022
NEWSLETTER**

Ngan kaditj-djinang koora-koora, yey, kidji mila boola norerl, ngalak nyin yey moorditj kadjan wadjuk boodja djinang-iny. We pay respect to all of the past, present and future Elders. We acknowledge their power, passion and good spirit that allows us to be on Wadjuk Boodja.

The above Acknowledgement was prepared by Prof Cheryl Kickett-Tucker and Elder Aunty Roma (2016). Any reproduction or use is to be referenced accordingly please.

This project aims to:

- Ensure Aboriginal children engage successfully in school;
- Recognize, value, and strengthen the cultures, languages, and identities of Aboriginal students in school
- Strengthen the self-esteem and well-being of Aboriginal students.

PROJECT UPDATE BIRAK 2022



Above: Combined schools cultural excursion to Yanchep National Park

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing cultural on-Country excursions with students, community members, teaching staff and AIEOs
- Presentation at the School of Education's World Teachers Day event on 29 October involved a panel of student and community participants
- Community dinners at Middle Swan and Clayton View Primary Schools to promote and update families about the project

MOOMBAKI EXCURSIONS

As a result of yarning circles with Aboriginal community members and students, the lesson themes will be:

- People
- Place
- Wellbeing
- Life & Living
- Languages
- Arts
- Technology & Innovation
- On Country camp

Standard lessons will be delivered, followed by a supplementary lesson using VR and mobile app digital gaming. The Curtin student digital team from the School of Design and Built Environment (Faculty of Humanities) have drafted the VR environment and animated player characters. Feedback from the community includes Indigenizing the totems (player characters) and incorporating the six Noongar seasons within the stages of the VR game.



Above: CEC member, Vicki and baby Isaac at the Yanchep National Park excursion

“I’m proud of my daughter (AIEO) for what she has achieved in her role throughout the past year.”
[Aboriginal Elder, CEC member]

“What I’ve got from the CEC meetings? Empowerment, knowledge and sharing.”
[Aboriginal parent]

“I’ve gained more confidence over the past year and a half as a CEC member.”
[Aboriginal parent]

COMMUNITY AND ELDERS COUNCIL (CEC)

Over 20 CEC meetings were held across the three schools this year. The CEC members have a significant role in the development of the Moombaki program and provide an ongoing cultural endorsement.

Interest in the program has seen additional community members join the school CECs which has been really positive to see.



Above: Curtin’s School of Education’s World Teachers Day event. Student participant, Elias shares how he and his friends raised money for Cassius Turvey’s family by arranging an icy pole stand after school.

The community were saddened by the tragic death of Cassius Turvey, which impacted many of the families and students on the project who are also from Midland. His memory was acknowledged by the Moombaki team and Aboriginal student participants who presented at the World Teachers Day event on Oct 29 (hosted by the School of Education, Curtin University).

Moombaki is important at school because...

“[It is a] research based effective program that covers all of the explicit instruction models to get a final outcome of mastery...having teachers build positive relationships with the kids because you can’t teach if your kids aren’t positive in your classroom.”
[Aboriginal Teacher]

“You have a sense of belonging in the environment that you’re in. And you feel like you’re a part of [the] welcome.”
[Non-Aboriginal Early Childhood teacher]

“...builds the children's self-esteem they can have pride in, you know, their culture and yeah, they feel stronger about themselves, you know? What makes them feel safe?”
[Aboriginal & Islander Education Officer, AIEO]

STAKEHOLDERS



Above: Prof Cheryl Kickett-Tucker trials the VR experience with Curtin digital students Brenton Lush (left) and Max Wright (right)

A productive meeting was held in Sept with the office of the Minister for Education and Training to discuss the department's Public School Review process, how best to support AIEOs at the schools and liaising with SCASA (School Curriculum and Standards Authority).

In October, the team met with Simon Zuvich (Principal Education Officer) and Leisel O'Keefe (Principal Consultant) from the Aboriginal Education & Training Learning Directorate (Dept. of Ed WA) at Statewide Services to discuss culturally safe delivery at the schools.

The team presented an overview of the project and plans for delivery and testing next year to the Curtin Research Committee in November.

The Moombaki team were awarded the 2022 Curtin Award for Research Excellence – Research Teams Recognising Diversity and Equity Award. Thank you to Prof. Jeff Brooks (Head of School, School of Education) for the nomination and to Curtin University for valuing the project's aims and purpose.

TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

The Moombaki lesson module will be drafted early next year and testing will commence with the VR and mobile app, ready for delivery in Term 2, 2023. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!



Left: Student participants from Middle Swan PS having lunch at the Yagan Memorial Park, Swan Valley

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE MOOMBAKI CULTURAL LEARNINGS TEAM:

<mailto:CulturalLearnings@curtin.edu.au>

[Moombaki project website](#)



Left: The Moombaki team win the 2022 Curtin Award for Research Excellence – Research Teams Recognising Diversity and Equity Award. Pictured L to R: Sophie Karangaroa, Prof Cheryl Kickett-Tucker AM, Charlene Carlisle, Trevor Martin with granddaughters, Sienna and Mia, Jesse Fleay, Steve Carlisle (community and family member) and Vice-Chancellor Harlene Hayne CNZM.



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