



MOOMBAKI CULTURAL LEARNINGS

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

**DJILBA 2022
NEWSLETTER**

Ngan kadij-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 DJILBA 2022



Above: Students from Clayton View Primary School with Kellie Fowler (AIEO) at the Yagan Memorial Park, Swan Valley.

HIGHLIGHTS

Local cultural on-Country tours with students, community members and AIEOs. It has been moorditj having community members and student participants proudly wear the Moombaki shirts and jackets. And student participants at Malvern Springs Primary School created an Aboriginal girls dance group, Wagyl Dreaming.

MOOMBAKI EXCURSIONS

Students and community members participated in several excursions this past quarter.

- May: Boola Bardip (WA Museum) to view the Virtual Realms Exhibition
- July: Curtin Bentley campus to meet with the digital team
- August: Local cultural visits to Fish Market Reserve and Walyunga National Park
- Plans for October: Cultural tour and activities at Yanchep National Park

The excursions were enjoyed by over 40 students and 15 community members from across the three schools. Photos and video of the students at the cultural visits and activities will be used as part of the content for the 8-Week Moombaki program to be taught in the schools next year.



Above: Josh McGuire (Cultural Advisor) shows cultural artefacts to students from Malvern Springs Primary School.

“...the knowledge we have on the land and the environment should replace any HASS we have out there...I believe that we know the knowledge, we’ve been here for sixty thousand years, no one knows it better than us... So, I believe that needs to be replaced and put in, especially here in Australia, considering they are learning their education on First Nations Country...”
[Aboriginal teacher].

COMMUNITY AND ELDERS COUNCIL (CEC)



Above: Students, community members and AIEOs visit Curtin Bentley Campus.

6 CEC meetings were held to discuss how the Moombaki program is to be delivered at each of the schools and for feedback on the content. The purpose of the CECs is to provide Aboriginal cultural content, school connection, integrity, authenticity and security to the project. It has been great having CEC members come along on the excursions also.

“...when I was growing up, no I never hear a Welcome to Country, let alone Acknowledgement to Country until I was at university. And then it became almost as if it became mandated. Which is great, but also, I always felt it wasn’t authentic. The authenticity is what I’m looking for...”
[Aboriginal teacher]”

STAKEHOLDERS

In June, the team met with Melesha Sands (Deputy Director General, Schools) and Steve Watson (Assistant Director, North Metropolitan Education Regional Office) from the Department of Education WA to provide an update on the Moombaki project.

Prof. Jeffrey Brooks, Head of School (School of Education, Faculty of Humanities, Curtin University) attended the Welcome and Smoking ceremony in July for the Moombaki participants' visit to Curtin campus. And met with the team at Curtin Midland campus in September.

Community members and AIEOs met with Kevin O'Keefe (Principal Advisor, Aboriginal Education & Training Learning Directorate, Dept. of Ed WA) at the Curtin Midland campus. It was a good opportunity to meet face-to-face and yarn about important matters for all.



Left: Members of the Moombaki Community and Elders Councils and AIEOs meet with Kevin O'Keefe (pictured on far left).

TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

In Term 4 we plan to finish the 8-Week Moombaki Program draft ready for community and students to give their feedback. We will also continue working with the digital team at Curtin to develop the VR and AR components of the program and prepare for testing to start next year.

In November we are also planning a community dinner event for parents, carers and kin of all Aboriginal students at each of the schools. We look forward to sharing the Moombaki program with local community members.

**FEEL FREE TO CONTACT
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[Moombaki project website](#)



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