

Cultural Integrity @ Ngunnawal Primary School

Cultural Integrity, as outlined by the Education Directorate

‘Describes the environment a school creates to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and to welcome and engage their families and communities. Every school’s story and community is unique, so Cultural Integrity will mean something different to each school. The whole school community will benefit from higher Cultural Integrity, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives embedded throughout teaching and learning, and into the physical school environment’.

At Ngunnawal Primary School we acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their stories, culture and long connection with the land we reside on. We are committed to establishing a reciprocal relationship with our community and welcome the opportunity to identify, challenge and question our own cultural assumptions, values and beliefs to ensure our students have an opportunity to learn in a culturally safe environment.

- We explore the purpose of acknowledgement prior to developing these with the class. These are visible in our classrooms and referred to regularly. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are embedded in learning plans throughout the year.
- We know who our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are at the beginning of the year. We engage with families to create a welcoming environment and a culture of respect. This is everyone’s responsibility.
- We teach with integrity and acknowledge the students in the room when exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.
- We acknowledge significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events and dates on the calendar and ensure we authentically incorporate these into the classroom planning and environment sparking rich conversations and experiences.



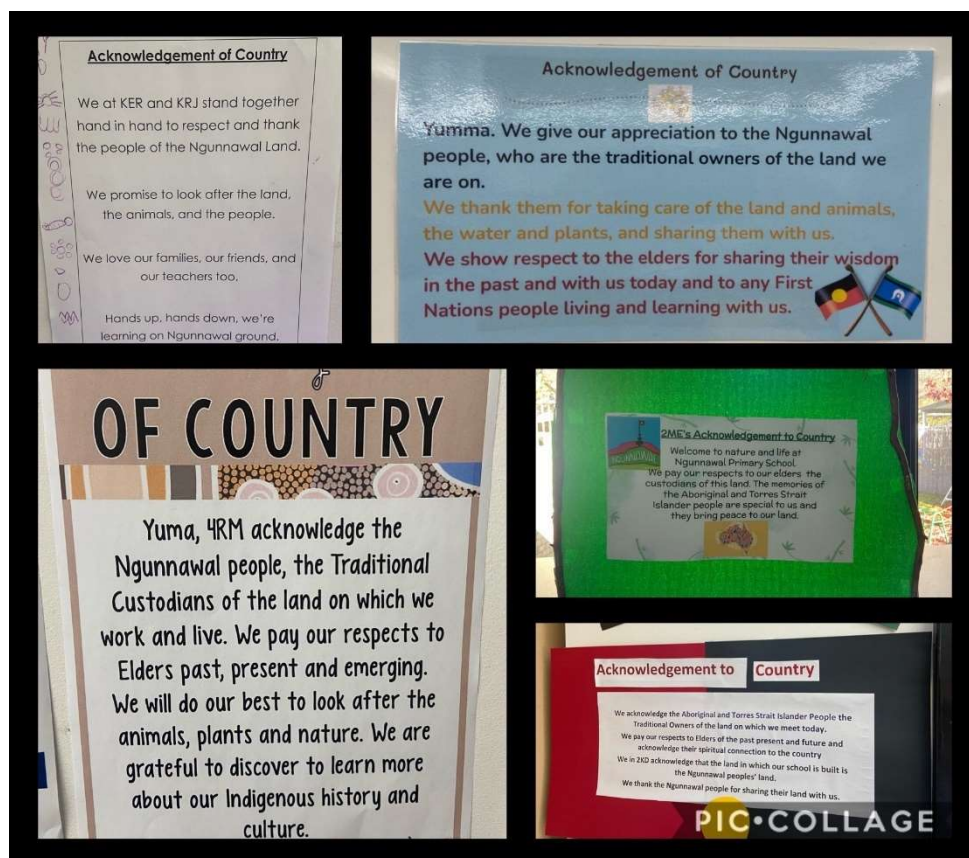
Acknowledgement of Country

The Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country are probably the most relevant traditional ceremonies for modern Australia. It is important to know the key differences between a Welcome to Country and an Acknowledgement of Country. Here is a quick guide to the difference between the two ceremonies.

Welcome to Country - A Welcome to Country is a formal welcome onto country and given by a Traditional Custodian, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been given permission from Traditional Custodians to welcome visitors to their Country (also known as an elder). It may involve stories, dance, song, a smoking ceremony or other activities.

Acknowledgement of Country - An Acknowledgement of Country recognises the land and tradition by showing respect to the traditional custodians of the land, rather than welcoming people to it. An Acknowledgement of Country can be given by any person, Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal.

Every year each class in the school including preschool will co-create an Acknowledgment of Country. The classes will learn the difference between a Welcome to Country and an Acknowledgement of Country. They will use this information and their personal connections to create meaningful acknowledgements that represent their beliefs and evoke thinking of how they can follow through with their pledge.



Significant dates

13 February – Anniversary of National Apology Day

On 13 February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd delivered the National Apology to Australia's Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the injustices of past government policies, particularly to the Stolen Generations.

17 March – National Close the Gap Day

National Close the Gap Day is an annual event that raises awareness and seeks to close the gap with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, educational and employment outcomes between Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and non-Indigenous Australians.

26 May – National Sorry Day

National Sorry Day provides an opportunity for people to come together and share the journey towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.



27 May – 1967 Referendum

The 1967 Referendum was a landmark achievement following decades of activism by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people, where more than 90 percent of Australians voted in favour of amending two sections of the Australian Constitution.

27 May to 3 June – National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week celebrations commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 Referendum and the High Court Mabo Decision.

3 June – Mabo Day

On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia overturned the principle of "terra nullius" or "nobody's land" as claimed by the British when they first arrived in this country. The decision has paved the way for Native Title legislation.

1 July – Coming of the Light

The Coming of the Light is celebrated annually by Torres Strait Islander peoples. It marks the adoption of Christianity through island communities during the late nineteenth century.

3 July to 10 July – NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

4 August – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about the crucial impact that community, culture and family play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

9 August – International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

On this day, people from around the world are encouraged to spread the United Nation's message on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous peoples.



1 September – Indigenous Literacy Day

Indigenous Literacy Day is a national celebration of culture, stories, language and literacy. This day raises awareness of the disadvantages experienced in remote communities and advocates for more access to literacy resources.

13 September – Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the General Assembly on Thursday, 13 September 2007.

Meet the Cultural Integrity Team at NPS for 2023



Natalie Munoz
CI Team Leader



Erin Salleo
CI Team Leader



Belinda Rawlinson
Koori-Pre Teacher



Crystal Hillier
CI Team Member



Caitlin George
CI Team Member



Naomi Schmidt
CI Team Member



Emma Boyle
CI Team Member