

NAIDOC Week Activities at Merimbula Public School

NAIDOC Week 2021 Healing Country

Thursday, June 24, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We cannot wait to be taking part in a special NAIDOC Week this year, commencing for our students on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. *NAIDOC Week is officially June 7 – 11 (during the school holidays).*



Monday, July 12: Staff Development Day Healing Country Conference (School/Office Closed as 450 visiting educators will be attending our school to learn from over 20 Elders from our Djiringanj Country and visiting Country. Christine Anu and Nova Peris will be talking to staff).

Tuesday, July 13: NAIDOC Week Special Event Day

9.00am: Students begin to put their handprints on a new mural our school students are collaboratively creating for NAIDOC Week.

9.30am: Years 3-6 students attend a Christine Anu talk and performance

10.30am: 3-6 students meet Nova Peris and hear about her life as an Olympian and politician

11.00am: Bush Tucker Lunch / Students from Small/Visiting schools arrive to play

11.30am: K-2 students/visiting schools attend Christine Anu/Nova Peris presentations

Merimbula Public School Years 3-6 students take part in a workshop of their choice:

WORKSHOPS: 1 and 2. **Indigenous Games and Sport**, with Matt Fullerton and Marcus Mundy; 3. **Story Writing and Writer's Workshop** with Aunty Gayle Kennedy; 4. **Making Johnny Cakes**, with Aunty Glenda Dixon; 5. **Cooking Bush Tucker Popcorn** with Gerald Power from Indigenous Cultural Adventures; 6. **Mural Painting** with Lewis Burns and Uncle John Dixon; 7. **Healing Country through Meditation and Sensory Experiences** with Emma Stewart; 8. **Telling Stories and Healing Through Dance**, with performer/rapper/song writer Warren Foster Jr., 9. **Aboriginal Art Workshop** with Aunty Colleen Dixon.

1.15pm: Recess (some visiting school students will be at Merimbula PS)

1.55pm: Students will be completing NAIDOC Week activities in their classrooms.

Nova Peris Leadership Workshop: Our School Leaders, Semester 1 and 2 SRC Leaders and Aurora College Students from Merimbula PS, together with visiting student leaders from other schools, will attend a Leadership Presentation.

Congratulations to Our Semester 2 School Leaders!!!

The following students will be attending the Leadership Workshop at 2pm with Nova Peris, in addition to attending their other NAIDOC Week activities. They will be joined by school leaders from other Sapphire Coast Learning Community Public Schools, as well as, our School Leaders and Semester 2 SRC Representatives.

FM FL FH	Channing Randall	4M	Ben Kipper Jonah Parker
1H	Cruz Grabham IsaJade Mass	4D	Inchoen Chainok Jensen Robinson
1M	Kade Parker Isabella Brewer	5C	Tyla Radford Jetta Millynn
2B	Tahlia Gray Beatrice Wong	5M	Grace Ford Harper Jessop
2S	Flynn Kryskow Millie Carter	6P	Kendra Bayliss David Campbell-Jones
3D	Beau Cousins Mikia Tilley	6K	Huon Smith Valentina Robinson

Wednesday July 14 – Friday July 16: Merimbula Public Schools students will have the opportunity to add to the school mural (at the K-2 Seating Area). Students attending the Snow Sports Trip will have the opportunity to add to the mural on Tuesday, July 13, before attending the excursion Wednesday to Friday. Other NAIDOC Week activities will be taking place in classrooms.

Bush Tucker Experience: Bush tucker will be cooked by Gerald Power and his team from Indigenous Cultural Tours. Order forms were sent home last week. The canteen will be closed on Tuesday, July 13.



Who Is Coming To Merimbula Public School to Meet Our Students?

Christine Anu: *Christine Anu is one of Australia's most popular recording artists and performers of all time, that uses her voice and reputation to spread a message of unity and hope. With 17 ARIA nominations, including the APRA AMCOS award-winning My Island Home and her platinum album Stylin' Up, she has one of the country's most enduring and recognisable voices.*

Nova Peris: *Over the past three decades, barely a year has passed where Nova Peris has not displayed excellence in some area of her life. Certainly, she has seldom stood still, always determined to educate and re-educate, in order to give herself the best possible opportunity to not only develop her own prospects in life, but, equally as importantly, those of her people throughout Australia and the Torres Strait Islands. Whether in sport, federal politics, or any number of former and current work environments, Nova has remained at the forefront of the conversation for the best part of 30 years.*

As a young mother, Nova pursued her dream, despite the odds not being in her favour, to compete at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. In Atlanta in 1996, Nova became the first Aboriginal person to win an Olympic Gold Medal as part of the dominant Hockeyroos. In a testament to her physiological attributes and determination, Nova switched her focus to athletics after Atlanta, and went on to win Gold in the 200m and 4x100m relay at the 1998 Commonwealth Games. In Sydney in 2000, Nova reached the Semi-Final of the 400m and was a member of the 4x400m relay team which finished fifth in the Olympic Final.

Who Is Coming To Merimbula Public School to Run Workshops For Our Students?



Auntie Colleen Dixon



Uncle John Dixon



Lewis Burns

Auntie Colleen is a Djiringanj and Ngarigo Elder who was born in Bega and has lived most of life here. Auntie Colleen has practiced in a range of art forms/mediums throughout her life and still sells her highly sought after works. Auntie Colleen has art displayed at the ABC Radio, has her art used for the Memorandum of Understanding, and a sculpture in Main St Bega, as well as, an Interpretation sign at Bega River. Auntie Colleen has a long passion for educating the next generation, her family and children in schools. **We cannot wait to take part in her art workshop!**

Uncle John is a Djiringanj and Ngarigo Elder who was born in and spent most of his life in Bega. A founding member of Djiringanj Elders' Federation, Uncle John works across and supports a number of organisations and schools. He has worked within many different Countries across Australia and has a passion for educating people to develop understanding and compassion towards Aboriginal people and their experiences, in an effort to move forward and heal country. **Uncle John will share stories and history that will inspire Lewis when creating our new school mural!**

Lewis Burns is a Tubba-Gah Wiradjuri man who was born in Dubbo, NSW. He has been learning about his Aboriginal culture for as long as he can remember. He continues to practise and respect these life skills each day and still learns and grows from this ancient knowledge. Lewis' love of his heritage is evident when you speak with him, and depicted even more in his Aboriginal crafts, traditional dancing, didgeridoo performances, mural paintings and teaching. He is very dedicated to sharing what he knows with others to help keep these customs alive. Lewis paints using traditional Wiradjuri Aboriginal, as well as, contemporary styles. He has exhibited and performed globally with his handcrafted didgeridoos. He has recently performed with Keith Urban, playing didgeridoo. Each piece of Lewis' artwork tells a story.....a story that will live on forever through the generations, as the artwork is handed down from one family to another. **We cannot wait for Lewis to collaborate with our staff and students to create our new school mural, telling the history of the Merimbula Public School site and Country it is on!**

Glenda Dixon is a Djiringanj woman from this area and a Traditional owner, born in Bega. Auntie Glenda went to School in Bega and went on to a higher education completing a Bachelor of Community Management at Macquarie University. She worked for 10 years with Bandara Childrens' Services. She then moved over to Playability. She is still doing work as a traditional owner with talks at schools and delivers Welcome to Country, and teaches people to make Damper and Johnny Cakes.

Warren Foster Jr is a proud Yuin man from Wallaga Lake. He is a multi-faceted artist who's energy fills the room whenever he is performing, sharing his story or supporting others. Warren Foster Jr has worked across the country to collaborate with a number of artists, such as Neil Murray when song writing, and is a talented and well renowned performer in his own right. An inspiration to young and aspiring artists, Warren works with students and youth in a range of ways to develop their talents and storytelling.



Aunty Glenda Dixon



Warren Foster Jr



Aunty Gayle Kennedy



Marcus Mundy



Gerald Power



Emma Stewart



Matt Fullerton

Gayle Kennedy was Indigenous Editor/Writer at Streetwise Comics from 1995 to 1998. Her poetry collection 'Koori Girl Goes Shoppin' was shortlisted for the David Unaipon Award, an award Gayle won in 2006 with 'Me, Antman & Fleabag'. It was shortlisted for a Victorian Premier's Literary Award, Deadly Award and commended for the Kate Challis RAKA Award. Gayle has published 11 novels between 2011 and 2014. Gayle has presented at writer's festivals, NAIDOC events, and nationally and internationally sharing her experience with polio and disability in general. Gayle's work has been published in Puffin, Currency, Ora Nui, Edinburgh Review anthologies Southern Southerly Magazine and Verity La, amongst others.

Marcus Mundy is a proud Djiringanj and Ngarigo man with Werunjeri connections in Victoria. Marcus has 10 years' experience working as an Aboriginal Education Officer at a primary and secondary school level, supporting students, families and the broader community. During this time, Marcus has also supported local primary schools within the Sapphire Coast Learning Community (SCLC) with Aboriginal Education Programs. Marcus is currently working as the relieving Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for the Batemans Bay Education Office.

Emma Stewart is a proud Bidjigal & Gweagal woman with kinship to Eora, Dharawal, Darug, Yuin and Gundangara Nations. Her dreaming track is to create a First Nations' healing program and to work and walk with our people to heal and develop a stronger mind, body and spirit.

Matt Fullerton is an Aboriginal Education Learning and Wellbeing Advisor for the Eden Monaro Principal Network. His role is to support Principals and staff with their commitment to Aboriginal Education, and how that manifests to everyday teaching, and improving the whole school culture.

We cannot wait for NAIDOC Week and to learn from these amazing people! – Michelle Hulme, Principal