

Our recognition of Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Australia’s colonial history is characterised by devastating land dispossession, violence, and racism. Over the last half-century, however, many significant steps towards reconciliation have been taken.

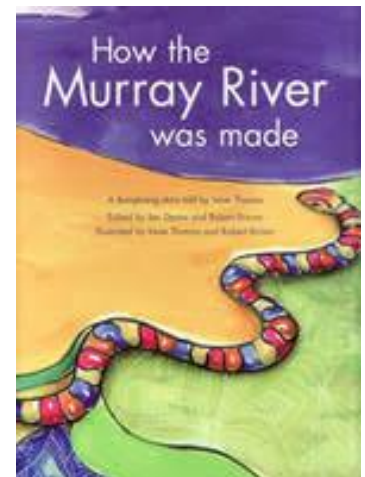
Reconciliation is an ongoing journey that reminds us that while generations of Australians have fought hard for meaningful change, future gains are likely to take just as much, if not more, effort.

In a just, equitable and reconciled Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will have the same life chances and choices as non-Indigenous children, and the length and quality of a person’s life will not be determined by their racial background.

Our awareness of Australais Indigenous culture was focused around the dreamtime story of “How the Murray River Was Made.”

We read the story in small groups leading into discussions about elders, dreamtime stories and where the Murray River is. We looked at map showing how long the river is and some google images of what the river looks like. Discussions about Australian animals which may live in the area emerged. These discussions highlighted to me that some of our children don’t know about our native animals and would like to learn their names.

Following the book, I planned a group project where children were involved with painting and decorating the snake (Toonatpan) from the story. Children were very engaged with this displaying commitment and pride in their work. Several children wanted to create their own individual snakes and opportunity was given to them to follow this interest. You will see our finished snake on display next week.



The story told about how an old woman dragged her stick along the ground making tracks which woke a snake who thrashed in the tracks making them bigger. The rain then filled the tracks creating the Murray River. Outdoor children were provided with sticks to make their own tracks in the tan bark, during this activity several children retold the story using their own words.

Continue to see photos of our children at work

