

## National Reconciliation Week Special Edition

### The Apology

By Alexander Kingston and Oliver Hayn

On 26th of May 2008 Kevin Rudd, said sorry to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. He stated "I move: That today we honor the Indigenous peoples of this land, the oldest continuing cultures in human history. We reflect on their past mistreatment. We reflect in particular on the mistreatment of those who were Stolen Generations—this blemished chapter in our nation's history." His apology was an important step in moving forward positively in Australia's history and helping relations with the First Nations People and all Australians. By respecting Indigenous people in this way, the apology helps to lead Australia to reconcile some negative past events.



Famlys have diffent traditions  
Australians need to protect  
there land  
Migration  
Indigenous Australians  
Live in hammany  
You belong here

**Family**  
By Carl Smola

## Acknowledgement of Country vs Welcome to Country

By Lindsay Fish and Caitlyn Loh

**What is an Acknowledgement of Country?**

An Acknowledgement of Country, first of all, can be made by anyone. The Acknowledgement of Country is an act made at the start of an event to pay respects to the Traditional Elders (Aboriginal people). The Acknowledgement of Country is a way to show awareness and respect for the Traditional Custodians of the land.

**What is a Welcome to Country?**

The Welcome to Country can ONLY be performed by First Nations people of that area. The purpose of a Welcome to Country is to greet visitors and give consent to events taking place on their traditional lands. The Welcome to Country can be performed when people enter Australia, or a new area within Australia. The Welcome to Country involves someone playing didgeridoo (this requires a lot of strength in your chest/lungs).

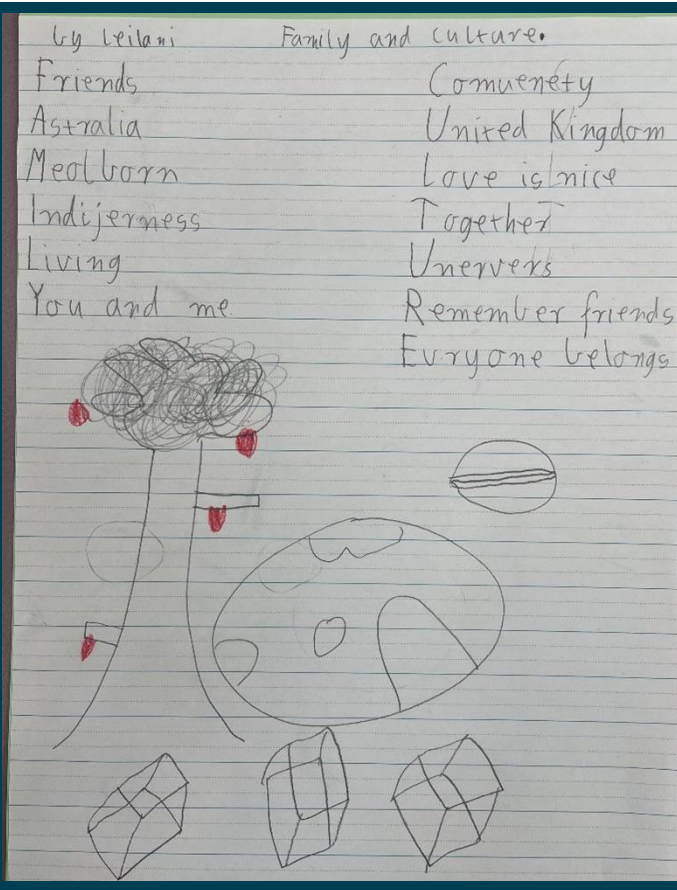
**What is the difference between an Acknowledgement to and Welcome to country?**

We have to start by saying that they sound similar which makes many non-Indigenous people think that they are the same thing. However they are NOT. The Welcome to Country is a ceremony performed by the Traditional Elders when people visit their country (nowadays they are also used when people visit sacred places for Indigenous people). The Acknowledgment of Country is a demonstration of respect for the Traditional Custodians on which a meeting or event is held. In the Woiwurrung Wurundjeri language the Acknowledgment of Country is said Wominjeka. Wurundjeri Balluk Yearmenn Koondie Bik.



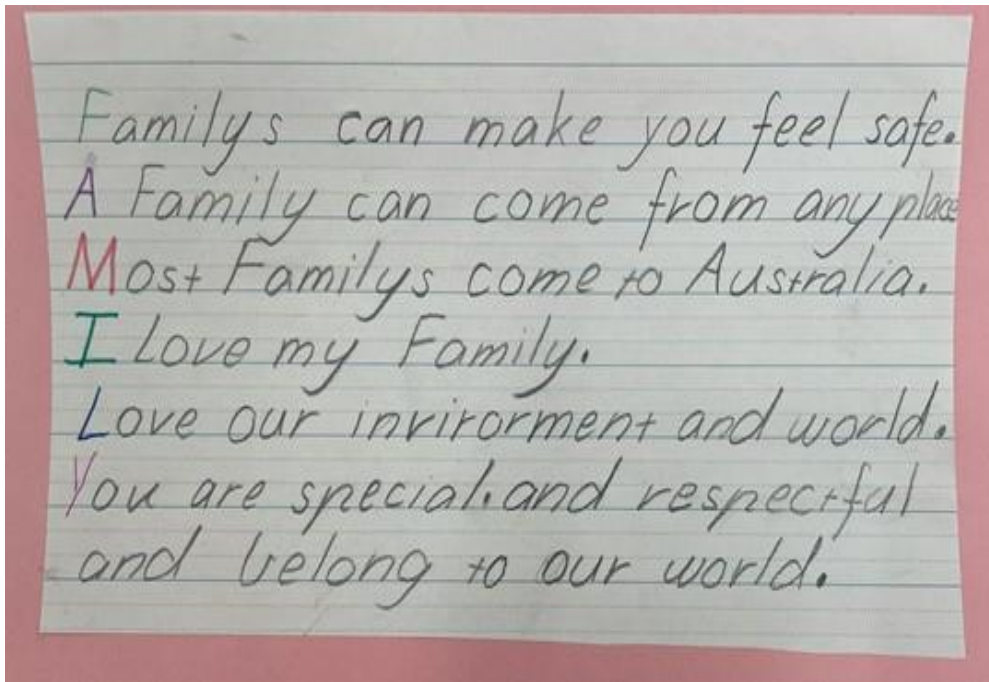
## Family and Culture

By Leilani Betham



By Leilani      Family and culture.

Friends	Comunety
Astralia	United Kingdom
Mealborn	Love is nice
Indijerness	Together
Living	Unervers
You and me	Remember friends
	Everyone belongs



Familys can make you feel safe.  
 A Family can come from any place  
 Most Familys come to Australia.  
 I Love my Family.  
 Love our invitorment and world.  
 You are special, and respectful  
 and belong to our world.

**Family**  
 By Alice  
 Charles-  
 Worthy

## The Smoking Ceremony

By Tisyak Bolagoni

MWNPS has just had their very first smoking ceremony! Joining us were Local MP Matt Fregon, Mount Waverley Secondary College school captains and Principal as well as Aboriginal elders, Arbut Peters and Mark Lumley. It was held to open Harmony Week at our school. After the ceremony, we wanted to bring forward to you information on the significance of smoking ceremonies, for at the start of term we as a school experienced the religious and cultural beliefs of this practice and we would love to pass this knowledge on to you.

Smoking ceremonies, a traditional custom, are a way to cleanse the land and air. The Indigenous elders' beliefs are that the significance of the smoke represents success and are particularly used to wish companies/new buildings that they will succeed one way or another. It is also believed that the smoke casts away evil spirits; such as when someone has passed away and is about to have his/hers burial. Smoking ceremonies have been practiced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for thousands of years and can even cure sickness. Different clans use different types of leaves such as eucalyptus and sandalwood.

This experience was mind blowing. We as a primary school have learnt so many new and or fascinating things and we hope that you have learnt something new as well. Big shoutout to Miss Karlsson for organizing the smoking ceremony and Mr Peters and Mr Lumley for presiding over it.



## Sharing the Land

By Anoushka Mulcare

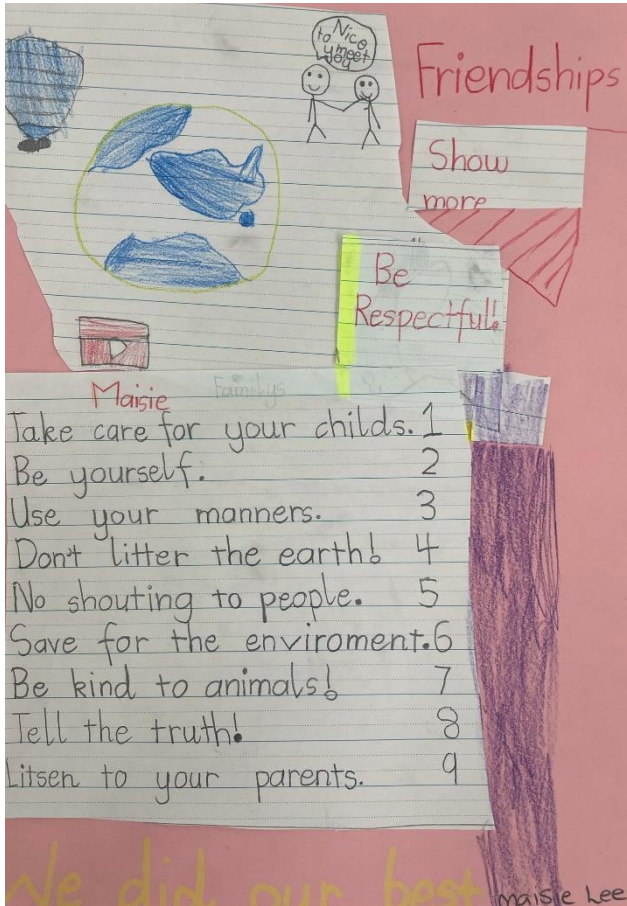
First nations people have a deep connection to land and country. They use resources wisely by only taking what they need. Traditional practices include controlled burning, that is burning native grasses early in the dry seasons, using little fires lit in mosaic patterns. Traditionally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people depended on natural resources for nearly all of their everyday needs. Plants, animals and waterways provided food, shelter, tools and medicine.

One of the amazing natural inventions of the Gunditjmara people is the eel trap. Eel traps were usually a little over 6 feet long, shaped like a long tube, and about a foot in diameter. Eel traps were made of closely woven lawyer cane. They were designed to capture adult eels and release baby eels so they could keep on breeding and there would always be eels to eat.

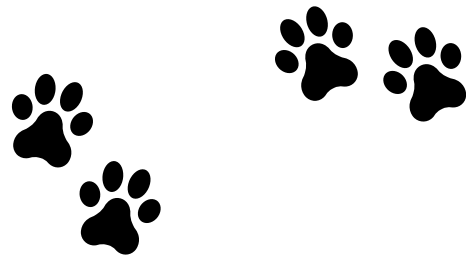


Family have different  
tradition.  
Australians speak  
languages  
Migration  
Indigenous Australians  
Live in harmony  
you belong to here

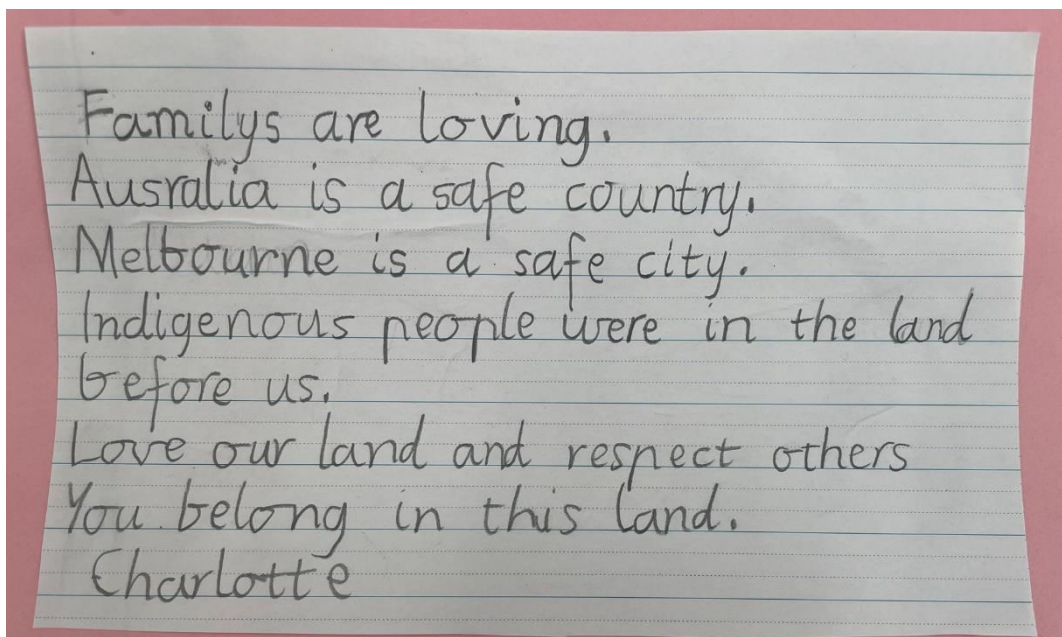
Family  
By Aditya  
Mallapudi



## Friendships By Maisie Lee



## Family By Charlotte Khor



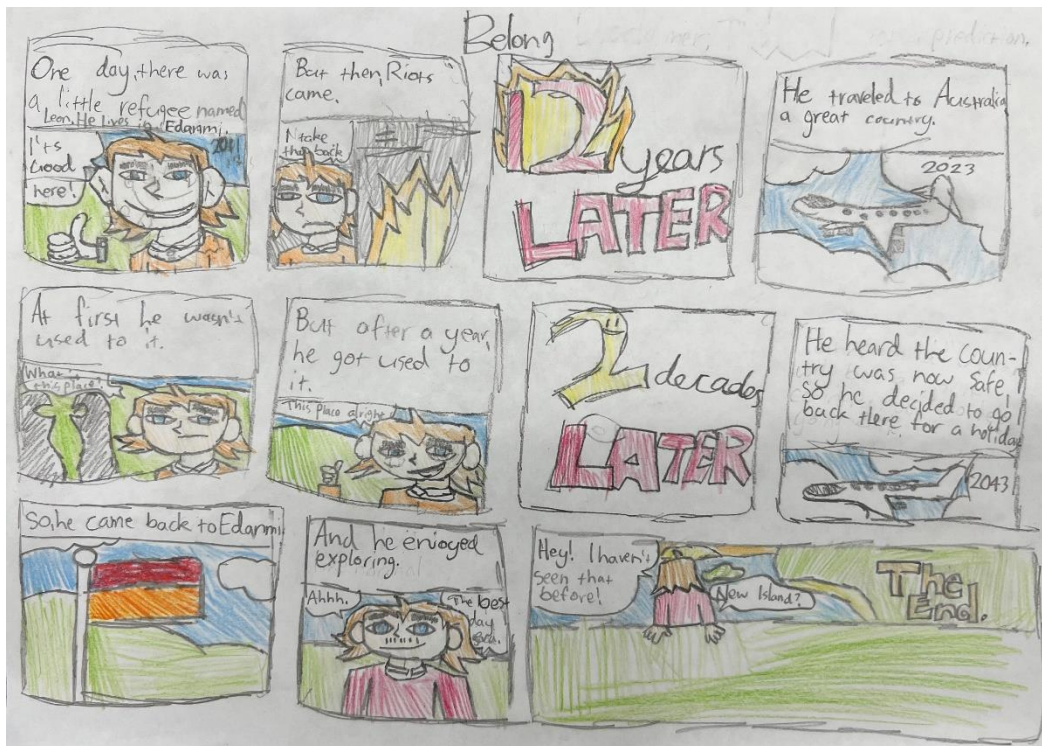
## Dreamtime Stories

By Eamon Liew

The Dreamtime is a term used to describe unique stories and beliefs owned and held by different Aboriginal groups. The history of the Dreamtime and its meaning says something about the development of the ideas held about the Aboriginal world, and how they are expressed through art and stories. They are passed down through the generations by Elders, story telling and art.

Some examples of Aboriginal dreamtime stories:

The Rainbow Serpent, Warlugulong, Tiddalik the frog, Gaya-dari the Platypus, Guddhu the Murray Cod, The Great Water Snake of Nagamaru, Thuggai the Yellowbelly, Wayamba the Turtle, Goo-goor-gaga the Kookaburra, Goolay-yali the Pelican, Mullion the Eagle, The sacred fires of the Mari Wari, Bohra the kangaroo, Oola the lizard, Ooyu-bu-lui the black snake, Piggeri-billa the echidna and Wilkuda the kangaroo.



Belong  
By Jacob Lee

## Family and Culture

By Loli Ahmed

Family and culture Loli

All families speak different languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and German. Families make you feel safe, warm and give you the best hugs when you really need it. My family always gives me the me the best hugs, and always makes me feel warm, and makes sure I feel safe. In Australia everyone should act like one family, and treat everyone with respect, make sure we all feel safe, and makes you warm, and always gives good hugs. by Loli.♥

