

Peppercorn Press



Carrathool Public School

Glover St Carrathool NSW 2711
Tel: 02) 6993 5143

Email: carrathool-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
www.carrathool-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Term 2 Week 5

Thursday 20 May 2021



NAIDOC Week video filming 2021

Principal's Report

It is not often that students wish there were more hours in the school day, but at the moment we sure could use a few! Our students have been involved in a multi school NAIDOC Week video, due to be aired in June. I'm sure we will see snippets of our wonderful students singing *My Island Home* with Christine Anu. Year 3 and 5 students confidently tackled Naplan online and Year 4 and 6 students participated in online Check In Assessments. We have just returned from our whole school excursion to Lake Mungo and Yanga National Parks at Balranald, are currently learning about being cyberwise with Healthy Harold in the Life Education van and will run cross country. Next week will see students join Booligal and SOTA for a Rugby Union day and we will hold our Operation Art open day next Thursday. We will pause for breath after our trip to Booligal for a writing day with local author Caroline Touhey. Booligal students will visit with us to continue the workshop on Monday 7 June. Photos and reports from all these events will appear in our next newsletter.

Our whole school excursion to **Lake Mungo and Yanga National Parks** was a huge success. I was so proud of the way students conducted themselves, showing respect to guides, staff and helpers, each other and to their surroundings. Students enjoyed themselves immensely and greatly increased their knowledge of Aboriginal culture and heritage. Enjoy their reports within this newsletter.

Students are also participating in **Operation Art** and will hold an **Open Day for People's Choice voting** on Thursday 27 May. This open day will also be **Koala Day**, a fundraiser for the Koala hospital at Port Macquarie. Not only will you be able to vote for your favourite artworks but will be able to purchase cakes and slices as well. This project, originating from our Geography unit, was the brain child of Eliza Rawle, Year 4, and we thank her for her ideas and organisation. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to attend to help us raise money for this worthy cause.

Have a great week,

Mary-Ann Headon
Principal

Term 2

Super Friday

Wk 3 - 7 May

Wk 5 - 21 May

Wk 7 - 4 June

Wk 9 - 18 June

Rugby Union Day

25 May

Operation Art - Wk 6

Open Day Thursday 27 May

Writing Workshop - Booligal

31 May

Writing Workshop - Carrathool

8 June

Lake Mungo Excursion Reports

While there were many learning opportunities on the excursion, it seems that everybody's favourite part was the sand hill experience!

We climbed up the sand dunes at Lake Mungo. We found old bones and there were real fireplaces from Aboriginal people. Then after we rolled down the sand dunes.

By Courtney.



Yesterday we climbed up the sand dunes at Lake Mungo. We took off our shoes and we rolled down the hills.

By Flynn



My legs hurt as we climbed up the sand dunes. At Lake Mungo we found animal bones and Aboriginal fireplaces. We followed animal tracks and it was so much fun rolling down the sand dunes. We took off our shoes and we ran down the sand dunes. We learned a lot about the Aboriginal people.

By Emily



Mungo Man and Lady Mungo

Our tour guide, Tanya, told us all about Mungo Man and Lady Mungo. Their bones and burial sites were found in the dry Lake Mungo bed about 40 years ago and have been carbon dated to be about 50,000 years old. This makes their remains some of the oldest in the world.

Mungo Man was about 53 when he died. Two of his teeth had been knocked out in an initiation and his other teeth were ground down due to chewing kangaroo sinews to bind spears. He had arthritis in his right arm from throwing spears. He must have been very important as he was sprinkled with red ochre, had his hands crossed in his lap and was buried in the lunettes of the lake. This is the oldest known example of such a burial in the world.

Lady Mungo was about 18 when she died. Her body was cremated then buried in the lunettes of Lake Mungo. Lady Mungo is the oldest example of cremation in the world. Both Mungo Man and Lady Mungo's remains were returned to the sand hills of Lake Mungo.

The bones of a child of about 14 who could have died during an initiation were also found. These bones were also returned to Lake Mungo.

By Eliza

When we first arrived at Lake Mungo we went into the Discovery Centre. There were lots of Aboriginal artefacts and tools like grinding stones and spear heads, bones of wombats and other small animals and Dreamtime paintings and stories. There was a model of a giant wombat as bones were found at Lake Mungo.



My favourite part was the sand hills. It was hard going up and really hard to stop when I was rolling down them!

By Reef

Tanya, our guide, explained the different sites and finds in the dry bed of Lake Mungo. We found lots of fire sites. Aboriginal women dug up termite beds and used them as ovens. They could burn for 3 weeks. She told us that if we found red ochre it meant men's business was held at that site, yellow ochre meant women's business, white ochre was family business and if all colours were at a site it meant everyone was there. We found a site that had fish ears from a yellow belly in it. Tanya said the yellow belly would have been over a metre long. Tanya also found the jawbone of a Tasmanian tiger and she only shows that to special groups.

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By Jack

After we came back from Lake Mungo we stayed at the Sturt Motel in Balranald. We changed into some clothes that weren't full of sand, brushed our hair and made ourselves look fancy before going out for dinner at the Club. Eliza, Lylah and I had fish and chips and it was yummy. We also had ice cream with topping and sprinkles. Mary, Eliza, Lylah and I shared a big room, Jack and Reef shared a room, Emily and Vicki shared and Alison looked after Courtney and Flynn.

(Mrs Headon's note- the girls in Room 1 also enjoyed a midnight feast of chocolate, marshmallows and chips.....)

By Anna



On Wednesday we visited Yanga National Park and explored the homestead there. It was built around 1870 and is in two parts. The smaller building was the offices, kitchen and staff dining and the larger building was where the owners lived. These rooms were much bigger. In the big entrance hall was a gramophone, the bedrooms had a water jug and basin to wash your hands and face in and there would have been chamber pots under the beds. The dining table was set very nicely with lots of plates and glasses and the maids would have carried the food over from the kitchens. Each room had a fire place so everyone was kept warm. Lots of doors opened onto the verandah so when the owners walked out onto the verandah they had a beautiful view of the gardens with the lake in the background.

By Lylah



Our last activity before lunch on Wednesday was to explore the swinging bridge in Balranald. The bridge is about 30 m long and goes over the river to a little island. It is built of wire so you can see straight through to the water below. It is very easy to shake and rock, Jack was shaking the bridge so hard it felt like it was going to tip over. Some of the smaller children were a bit scared so when we returned from the island we had to wait for them to go first so we didn't rock the bridge.

By Mary





TO HONEST TOIL AND VALIANT LIFE