



Newsletter

Issue 19 — Friday 14th July 2023

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to all our students, staff and families to what will be an exciting Term 3. The big news at the moment is that the new building is ALMOST ready for occupation. This is presenting us with some logistical challenges. We will get there soon. At the time of writing, an Occupancy Certificate has not been received which will then lead our school to assume responsibility for this beautiful new structure.

The Glasses for Kids Program

The Glasses for Kids Program have been assessing our Junior students this week. Emerson School is very grateful for this free service provided by State Schools Relief. The optometrists have worked with our students to identify any visual needs. Any prescribed glasses should be distributed within three weeks.

Discussions on The Voice Referendum

Over the last few months an increasing number of people have been asking me what The Voice Referendum is all about. Over the next few weeks, I will put a number of educational comments together that will clarify some of the issues that are important to the future of our country and the wellbeing of all peoples.

Today I will limit my comments to the Uluru Statement from the Heart that was created and written in 2017. I have included this statement in this newsletter for your consideration.

In 1967, when I was nineteen, Australians voted on the issue as to whether Australian Aboriginals could be included on the electoral roll. I was very embarrassed by this as I had not realised that Aboriginals could not vote in Australia. They could play sport for our country and they could die in the wars, but they were not able to vote.

This is very similar to young women and men who went to war at the age of 18 but were not allowed to vote until they were 21. In 1973, the voting age was lowered to 18.

There are so many issues to talk about in The Voice Referendum. The main thing to remember is that it is not a political issue. It is an issue of equality and fairness.

John Mooney
Principal

DIARY DATES 2023

TUESDAY 15TH AUGUST - Curriculum Day (no school)

FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER - Last Day of Term 3 (early finish)

MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER - Term 4 Commences

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: *the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.*

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is *the torment of our powerlessness*.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take *a rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: *the coming together after a struggle*. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.



VALUE OF THE FORTNIGHT

We will continue studying the value, Generosity, next week.

Generosity starts by being aware that someone or some people need help. A generous person would give those people the help needed or arrange to help them source an organisation that can meet their needs. Generous people give to others knowing that it will make their lives better.

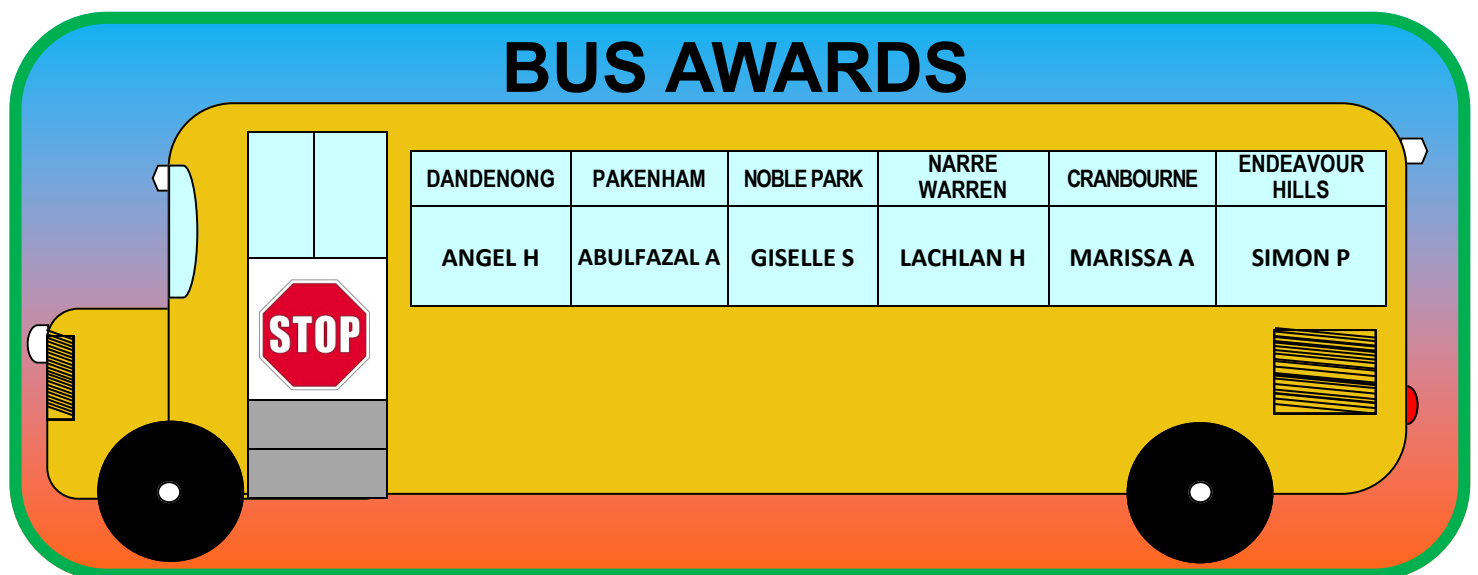
A generous person does not expect anything back in return for their good deeds.

*Dianne Wright
Campus Principal—Middle School*

SUBWAY ORDERS

SUBWAY ORDERS ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS EACH WEEK ON A WEDNESDAY.

There are special Subway envelopes available at the office of either campus. Please fill in details with the correct money included and hand these to the Office any time before Tuesday 10.00am each week.



SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS—VICTORIA OPERA: THE GRUMPIEST BOY IN THE WORLD

On Thursday 22nd June, four Junior School classes (JSE, JSF, JSG and JSH) were lucky enough to attend Victoria Opera's performance of 'The Grumpiest Boy in the World' at the Melbourne Arts Centre.

We sat in the very front row and had an amazing view not only of the stage but also of the orchestra pit. This eye-opening opera for children followed the journey of Zachary as he questioned his own ordinariness while discovering an imaginary world of giants, hairy creatures and flying things. It was an extraordinary and engaging tale for both the students and staff, with much excitement and discussion to follow.

Thank you to Christine Marlow for organising this performance for us. We loved it!

Leanne Russell
Head of Junior School



JUNIOR SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

PENMANSHIP

Imran JSD
Ahmed JSJ

PARTICIPATION

Ahmad JSG

PATIENCE

Salahuddin JSA

GOOD LISTENER

Ali JSE

FUNTASTIC

Roshne JSH

ORGANISATION

Ayaan JSF

BEST WRITER

Isaac JSK

OUTSTANDING EFFORT

Alex JSC

FRIENDSHIP

Campbell JSI



SUNSHINE

Lachie JSB

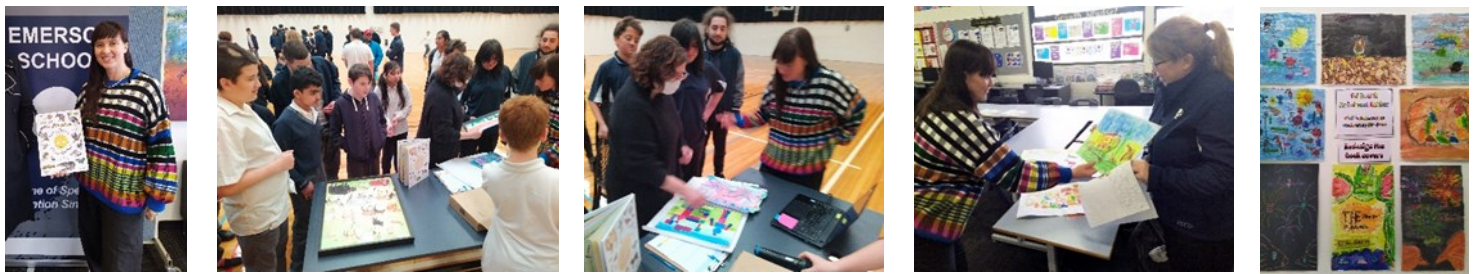


KINDNESS AWARDS

- ♦ Anthony L (SSB) has been nominated by Mr V as he volunteered to carry some bags of concrete to a lady's car at Bunnings as he thought they were too heavy for her to carry them.

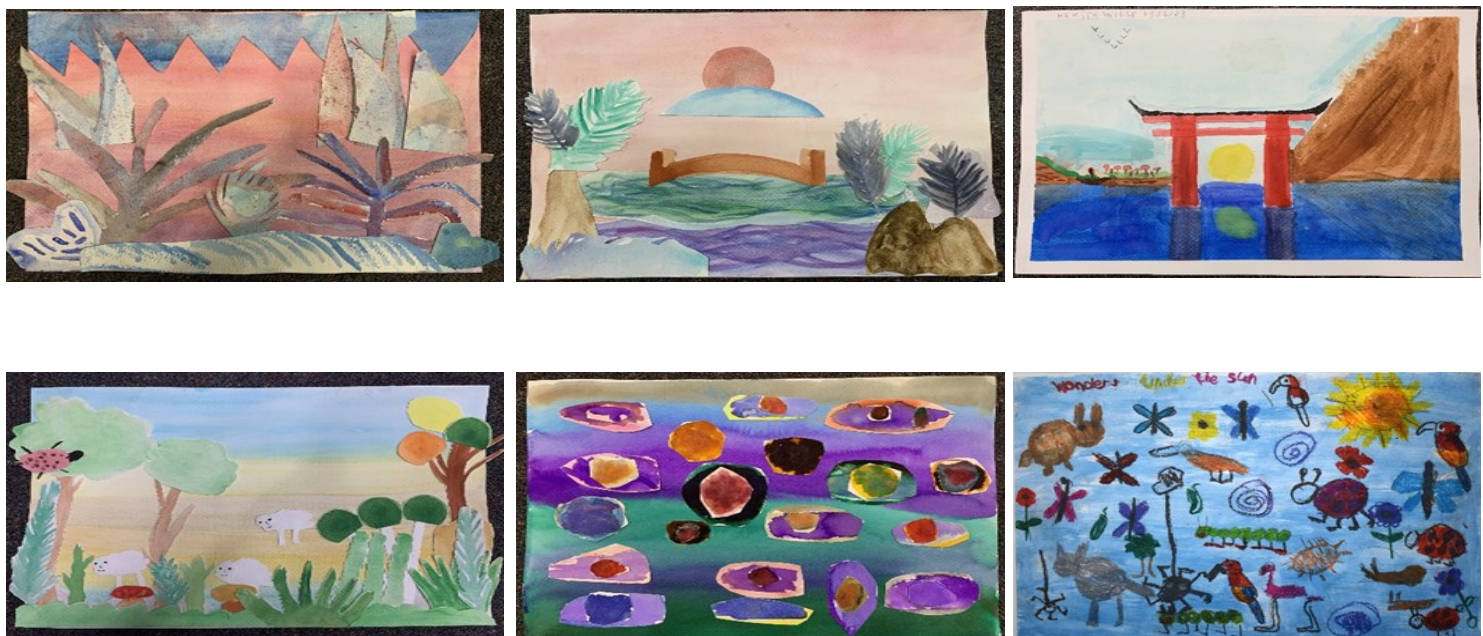
TAI SNAITH'S AMAZING ANIMAL ARTWORK

On Wednesday 14th June in the afternoon, we went to the stadium to listen to Tai Snaith talk about her artwork. Tai talked about what inspired her when she was younger how to draw, things that inspired her were horses and animals. Tai likes to draw Australian animals and she mixes protecting the environment with her artwork. Tai was talking about protecting animals in her artwork. She likes to draw different themes such as birds and animals that are active in the day time like in her book *Wonders Under the Sun*. My favourite part was when Tai showed her bird artwork. – Sebastian H, MSD



Tai loved the enthusiasm, curiosity and kindness of our students. She enjoyed MSD's artwork, reimagining her book covers, and SSV's watercolour artworks in response to her book illustrations. Tai left Emerson feeling really happy. Tai Snaith's beautifully illustrated books contain meaningful messages about loving animals, the environment, and ourselves. They feature activities for all ages promoting self-care and love of country. – Miss Innes

[Below, from left to right] *Untitled* by Sara B, *Untitled* by Bethania M, *Beautiful World* by Hamish M, *The Forest* by Zahra M, *Gem World* by Chrissie M, and *Wonders Under the Sun* by Sebastian H.



POST-SCHOOL OPTIONS TOUR

THURSDAY 27TH JULY 2023

Emerson School has organised the following post school options tour. Parents can drive to the following destinations where they will have the opportunity to look at facilities and programs on offer by the different post school services.

9:30AM - WALLARA

34 Potter Street, Dandenong.

11:30AM - THE BRIDGE- HUB 31

Level 1/31 Princess Hwy, Dandenong.

**1:30PM - LILYPOND HOUSE COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

65 Duncan Drive, Pakenham.