



2013 NEWSLETTER No 1

We hope that your school has enjoyed a positive and productive start to the 2013 school year.

We are delighted to advise that the **Mungo Youth Project** (MYP) is scheduled for Wed 26th to Fri 28th of March **2014**.

This allows schools time to plan well ahead and the weather in March is generally perfect.

Firstly a celebration:

The 2007, 2009 and 2011 September Mungo Youth Conferences were all a great success: Visit the website below and read the Worawa College review (page 4) to gain some insights as to why:

Visit: <http://www.abc.net.au/local/videos/2011/10/26/3348576.htm>

We expect the 2014 conference to be the same, a sellout success!

The Mungo Education Team has been invited to present at two International Conferences:

- 2012 - *Best Practices in World Heritage: Archaeology Menorca, Spain*,
- 2013 – *World Indigenous Network Conference, Darwin, Australia*

The MUNGO YOUTH PROJECT is considered as world's best practice!

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

With the introduction of the new National Curriculum, schools have an increased focus on Australia's first people and the Mungo Youth Project allows for an appreciation of the deep cultural, adaptive and ongoing narrative of Aboriginal people within a World Heritage landscape like no other.

To prepare for the 2014 Conference the World Heritage MYP team will provide a range of supportive actions.

1. A professional learning program for teachers and Koorie Educators at Mungo during Term 3, 2013

Schools wishing to participate will be able to send key staff to Mungo to develop key understandings of the project, partnerships, resources and essential strategies to allow 'Kids to teach Kids'.



2. A Schools Visit Program during Terms 3 & 4, 2013 & Term 1, 2014

The Mungo Education Team is excited to support the development of the New National Curriculum in three key areas – History, Science and Geography.

Our Education Team (Educators, World Heritage Community and Cultural Officers and Discovery Rangers) will, on invitation, visit schools to generate supportive partnerships. The team will offer Professional Development Sessions (whole of school or small team) and identify both what schools seek in regards to deep history learning and to share our own learning (*including resources*).

Activities with educators and students will investigate effective research and presentation techniques.

3. Support school visits to Mungo during 2013:

In 2013 schools might like to build their world heritage experiences and bring students to Mungo for a one-day or overnight visit. If you've never been now is a great time...

World Heritage *Discovery Rangers* are available to make your visit a rich one. If required an integrated experience for your school can be developed through the Mungo Education Team.

4. Provide Interactive Resources

School visits will be greatly enhanced through the use of the "*Mungo Museum in a Suitcase*" resource.

The suitcase will be packed with artifacts and activities. Students will gain insights into the resources and technologies that were essential for peoples to adapt and survive. A series of interactive activities and reference materials are provided for students to research topics and solve problems.

The MYP will collaboratively create a series of interactive applications that feature key elements of the world heritage education agenda *and* 'shake-able' stories – creating alternative perspectives*

5. School Leadership Communities

School Regions, school groups, or a network of leaders can be involved in programs that explore and develop cultural understandings of indigenous Australia through the lens of deep history that Mungo provides.



Bring your team to a crafted program that suits your needs, with accommodation ranging from a tented experience to the (four star) Mungo Lodge.

The teaching of Australia's deep history is exciting and rewarding.

The Mungo Youth Project is successful as it is founded on a partnership with, and shares the vision of, the Traditional Owner communities of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area.

The MYP has developed a model of engagement that is outstandingly successful with students and significant adults.

We are especially interested in hearing what indigenous educators and teachers believe is best practice in the education of all students in these key areas and to identify strategies to support and enhance learning.

GETTING INVOLVED: If you are interested to hear more about the teaching of deep history or ways to become involved then visit:

<http://www.visitmungo.com.au/> and follow the link.

Email ricky.mitchell@environment.nsw.gov.au or

Call NSW National Parks, ask for Ricky Mitchell (Aboriginal Community Projects Coordinator) 0350218906

The Willandra Traditional Tribal Groups?

Paakantji, Ngiyampaa, Mutthi Mutthi



"Mungo is one of the most important places in Australia for studying the environment of the past and the people who lived through it all."



Wander the sands of time in ancient Mungo National Park at the heart of NSW's Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area.

This extraordinary place is of great significance to the Ngyiampaa, Mutthi Mutthi and Southern Paakantyi people, whose connection with the land reaches back more than 40,000 years.

Remarkable archaeological finds like Mungo Man, Mungo Woman (the world's oldest human cremation), and human footprints dating back to the last ice age tell an incredible story about the long history of Australian Aboriginal people.

Feedback from Worawa Aboriginal College in Healesville Victoria, participants in the 2011 Mungo Youth Project

To the Mungo Youth Project ORGANISERS,

I'm a teacher from Worawa Aboriginal College in Healesville, Victoria. We were fortunate enough to bring a group of our students to the Mungo Festival for the first time this year. We were late entrants which meant we really had our work cut out for us in terms of getting together the best possible presentation we could in the short time we had.

We chose 9 girls to be a part of the Mungo Crew and over the weeks leading up to the festival, we all worked super hard to ensure what we presented would do the school proud and the girls even prouder.

Many of our girls are from remote communities and English is sometimes a second or third language. For those girls to get up and present in front of a group of people they have never met before was amazing to see. The end result ended up exceeding our expectations, our girls were so proud of themselves, we the teachers were proud and according to audience feedback, they presented extremely well.

What we noticed with the students in both the lead up to the festival and during the festival was the increase in self esteem, respect for others and pride in their personal history and knowledge. As educators, we could never have gotten the same results from a classroom, the hands on approach and self-lead learning the girls went through was invaluable.

The only aspect of the festival we thought could change was to have more hands on activities for the students. There was a lot of information to take in and sometimes it felt like they were being talked to a little too much.

The Mungo Youth Festival is something Worawa Aboriginal College would love to continue to be a part of. The feedback from the students was so positive and self-affirming that to not make Mungo a regular part of Worawa, would be a mistake.

Thanks again to everyone involved, it was a wonderful experience.