



Pemulwuy

Newsletter of the NSW AECG Inc.

December 2019

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NSW AECG Languages App



Have your say

Want to have your say?

Let everyone know the great things happening in your Local or Regional AECG. To be published, send your photos and stories to: info@aecg.nsw.edu.au

The NSW AECG Inc. would like to Acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work, and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

President's Message



Welcome to the final edition of the Pemulwuy for 2019. Our achievements have been many and the list too big to go through. As the year draws to a close, I'm just reflecting on the busy year and our many highlights.

Our language Educators and Project Officers have worked tirelessly this year across the Aboriginal Language and Culture Nests promoting and teaching language. In the west and North West, this culminated in a fantastic Language Spectacular with over 300 students from various schools and communities participating in a concert at the Dubbo Regional Theatre in October. This was then followed up with a community concert in Lightning Ridge. Both ere sensational events which will now be slotted in the calendar for 2020.

Our professional Learning around the 2019 NAIDOC theme, Voice Treaty Truth was also another highlight and was well attended by people wanting to increase their knowledge on the meaning of the NAIDOC theme and activities they can do to promote it. We look forward to delivering more professional learning around the 2020 NAIDOC theme "Always Was Always Will Be". 2020 also presents a challenging year with the anniversary of Cook's first Pacific Voyage. Professional learning has been developed to support the View from the Shore.

The NSW AECG continues to grow and advocate for improved educational outcomes and will continue to do this into the future. Of course, this would not be possible without the tireless efforts and the hard work of our Local AECGs. I sincerely want to thank you for the work you do, but unfortunately there is still much to do. I look forward to working with you in 2020.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season!! Hope everybody gets a well-deserved rest and enjoys the holiday season and Santa is good to you!!

Look forward to catching up in 2020!!

Pemulwuy

Pronounced: "Pem-ool-we"

The newsletter has been called *Pemulwuy* in honour of one of the first Aboriginal people known to have resisted the invasion of Australia.

Pemulwuy and his son, Tedbury, were both outlawed while leading resistance to the invasion for 20 years after 1788. They led a form of guerilla warfare right around the area of modern Sydney and were perhaps the first Aboriginal people to resist attacks on their culture and identity.

NSW PREMIERSHIP RING



<https://pixabay.com/photos/grass-lawn-field-sports-soccer-2616911/>

Every year players from the winning team are presented with a Premiership diamond ring. This piece of jewellery is handcrafted and worth around \$10,000 each.

The 2019 NRL Premiers ring has an Indigenous artwork theme on it designed by former Rugby League great Jonathon Thurston. He designed the ring to integrate part of his local Country, the Gungarri people. He stated, *'through the language of art, together we were able to share a piece of my family's indigenous roots with you all.'*

Thurston based the design on an original painting by Wayne Martin of Nguram-Bang Aboriginal Art.

Source: the [mercury.com.au](https://www.mercury.com.au)



GRAHAM 'POLLY' FARMER – INDIGENOUS AFL PLAYER

The passing of Graham 'Polly' Farmer this year was a sad loss to the AFL community at large.

He was born in 1935 in Perth Western Australia.

His feats on the AFL are a testament to his outstanding sporting abilities – Sandover Medal Winner 1956, 1957 and 1960, a Tassie Medal in 1956 at the Hobart Carnival, seven Best and Fairest Awards at East Perth and two similar at awards whilst at Geelong (including the 1963 VFL Premiership), Runner Up Brownlow Medal of the same year, another Premiership at West Perth and a total of six Premierships all up. A remarkable tally.

Graham "Polly" Farmer revolutionised Australian Rules Football and stood as an Indigenous champion both on and off the field.

The former Geelong ruckman, who died from Alzheimer's disease aged 84, was a trailblazing Indigenous footballer whose skill transcended the entrenched racism that was so prevalent in 1950s and 1960s Australia.

Farmer was ambitious and football was his opportunity for a better life.

"I think it was probably the way I could make an impact on society, but at the time I wasn't aware of it," he said.

"Almost all things off the playing field aren't even. On

the playing field, it's just your ability and what you do."

Except that in the 1950s, the playing field was rife with racial abuse.

On the field he turned the handball from a disposal of last resort to an attacking weapon that pre-empted the modern game by decades.

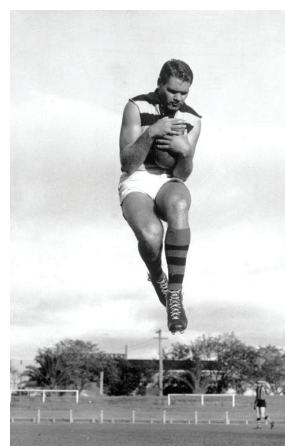
The 190-centimetre ruckman was years ahead of his time, whether it was leading Geelong to its 1963 premiership or dominating for East Perth in the 1950s.

Farmer was a true champion, a high achiever and man of principle. Graham 'Polly' Farmer was honoured as one of the first 12 legends of the AFL.

Sources: AFL's Black Stars by Colin Tatz and others
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-14/graham-polly-farmer-rocked-afl-on-and-off-the-field/11414352>



Source: The New Daily



Source: The Herald Sun

NSW Health Primary School Mobile Dental Program



All Medicare eligible children under 18 years of age can access free dental care provided by NSW Health at public dental clinics. Some children may also be eligible for the [Child Dental Benefits Schedule \(CDBS\)](#). All children seen by public dental services receive the same high quality care regardless of their eligibility for CDBS and no fees are charged, even if CDBS benefits have been fully used up.

To book an appointment or for more information, [contact your local public dental service](#).

In addition, from July 2019 students at participating schools will have access to free dental care through the [NSW Health Primary School Mobile Dental Program](#). Primary school students in Western Sydney, the Mid North Coast and the Central Coast will be among the first to benefit. For the first year of the program, schools have been prioritised based on the level of oral health risk among their students.

The program will be delivered by experienced NSW Health staff, who will be using a combination of fully equipped dental vans and portable dental equipment set up on school grounds.

Parents and guardians will receive an [Information and Consent Pack](#) about the program before it is due to visit the school.

For more information on the NSW Health Primary School Mobile Dental Program visit the website: health.nsw.gov.au/primaryschool dental



TERRIGAL PUBLIC SCHOOL RAP LAUNCH

By Helen MacDonald

Welcome everybody here today for the exciting launch of our Terrigal Pathways to Learning RAP. I can see so many excited faces in the crowd bursting to view this video. My name is Helen MacDonald and I am the relieving Assistant Principal on Stage One. I am so honoured to be able to share with you this RAP that promotes Terrigal Public School as a place of belonging and as a place where you can come for learning that is meaningful. Learning that you can use in your everyday lives. When you feel like you belong and that what you are learning is meaningful and able to be used in the real world, you then create a climate of engagement. When our students are engaged, this then results in higher academic achievement.

I just wanted to share with you how this project came about. When I was scanning our school, it was very evident that we have lots of detailed information readily available for academic outcomes, especially in literacy and numeracy. We also collect data about behavioural notifications. This data doesn't give us a real picture of what is going on for our students' engagement. We need to get underneath the data to tell us what these numbers are actually telling us.

As part of my reading the concept of student engagement continued to resonate loudly. Students need to see how their learning is significant. Teaching and learning isn't viewed as a series of unrelated ideas, but is connected and meaningful to each of the students in our classrooms and their lives.

Students need the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to solving real-world problems, and to be able to take their learning from the classroom into the real-life context. Throughout this process we have ensured that our local AECG Kurriwa was consulted with in the development of this song. It is important that local Elders and Community are involved in the development of this project and we thank them for their ongoing support.

How can this be achieved??

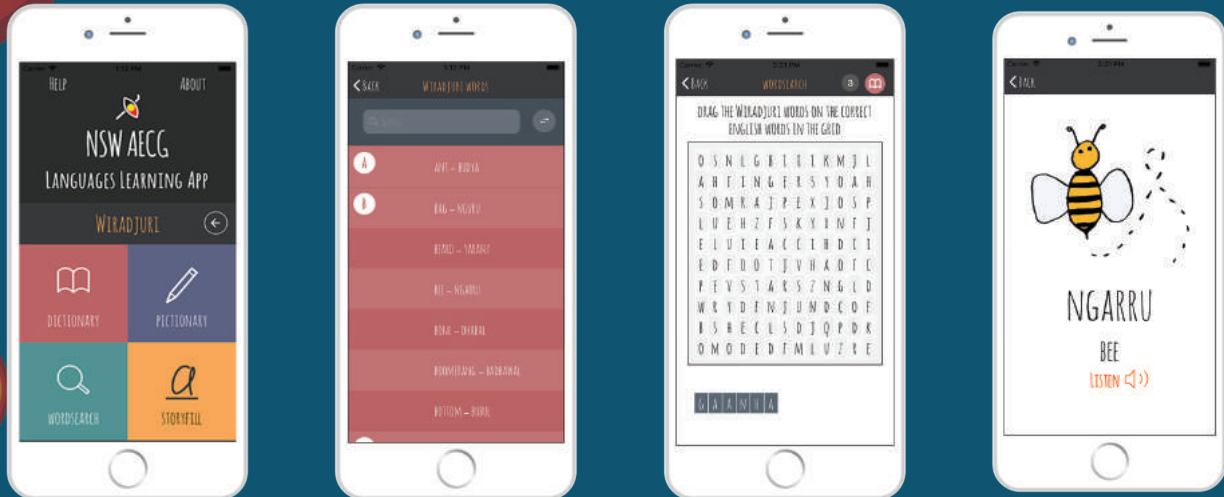
So I had two jobs to focus on. The first one was to work with all our wonderful Aboriginal students as they painted a gift to the school that celebrates community, belonging and learning pathways. The other job was writing the words to the RAP that promoted belonging, meaningful learning and engagement.

Visit the RAP at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn72f78kCNw&feature=youtu.be>





NSW AECG Languages App Launch



In October we launched our NSW AECG Languages App at the Museum of Contemporary Arts. The night kicked off with some fantastic performances from the Gamay Dancers followed by Rowena Public School, Weilmoringle Public School as well as some of our language educators.

The app is multi-tenancy and currently has the languages of Bundjalung, Gamilaraay, Gumbaynggirr, Murrawarri, Paakantji and Wiradjuri. It also contains games such as pictionary, word search and storyfill and we hope to add more as we continue to add to each dictionary. The languages featured on our app have been sourced directly from the language groups across New South Wales. We believe the app will be a highly effective tool in maintaining and revitalising Aboriginal languages across NSW.

Available for download on the App Store and Google Play, search for 'NSW AECG languages app'.







We would like to welcome you to Storylines!

www.storylines.com.au is now the home of your local Community website previously found on the MGoals platform. The new name and site better reflects the inspiring stories and content from Community and schools across NSW.

The Storylines platform provides local community members, schools, organisations and the broader community with a culturally safe online environment in which to share and celebrate Aboriginal, non-secret, non-sacred stories of history, culture and achievement.

Storylines is governed by local communities and the Burruga Foundation, a not-for-profit Aboriginal organisation in Partnership with the NSW AECG.

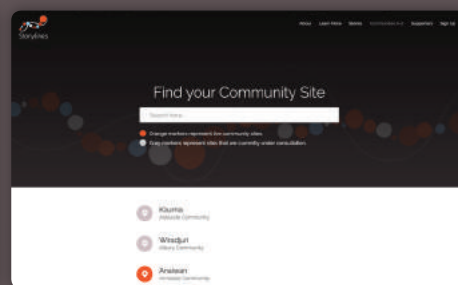
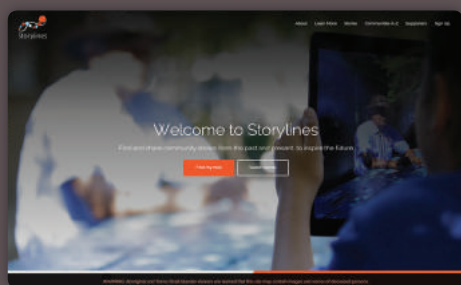
The evolved site has a range of exciting new features for you to explore and enables everyone to easily access and engage in all of the empowering content. We've also made it much easier to upload content and manage your local consultation and approval processes.

The Storylines platform enables your community to support schools, teachers and students with a further understanding of what is valued in your local community. With your help and ongoing support, we look forward to continuing to grow Storylines nationally and supporting everyone to engage with Aboriginal Education and Culture.

How does it work?

Everyone is welcome to share stories by uploading images, videos and other digital media that celebrates local Aboriginal histories, heritage, education and cultures through your local communities Storylines website.

Stories shared on the Storylines platform are only made public following consultation and approval from a local Aboriginal Education Consulting Group Inc. (AECG).



The goal setting tool

The MGoals goal-setting tool that supports personalised learning pathways for students, has also been upgraded. Users of MGoals now access their goal-setting through Goalhub using existing login details.

Goalhub provides all the same great functionality as the MGoals goal-setting tool, but has now been expanded to accommodate all students. There are also optional additional features including support for PLP management, goal banks, curriculum frameworks and reporting.

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Please contact us for assistance with setting up on
Storylines: 02 9057 8000 Goalhub: 02 8208 6000



WIRRAWAY - WW2 AIRCRAFT

An Aboriginal Connection – Remembering Those Who Served

In 1942, Australia was threatened with invasion again. This time from the rapidly expanding Japanese military in the South West Pacific. Darwin was bombed many times, Sydney harbour penetrated by midget submarines and coastal shipping was being sunk at random. The country was slowly being isolated. It was time for local industry to step up and new ones to establish. This included local aircraft manufacturing.

One such locally made fighter aircraft to be made was the Wirraway. It is an Aboriginal word meaning ‘*challenge*.’ The Wirraway was a training and general purpose military aircraft manufactured locally by the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation (CAC) between 1939 and 1946. It was an Australian development of the North American NA-16 training aircraft. The Wirraway is credited with the beginnings of Australian aircraft manufacturing.

The Wirraway principally saw action in and around New Guinea. This aircraft was also a starting point for the design of another locally made wartime “emergency fighter”, which was also developed and manufactured by CAC, known as the *Boomerang*. On many occasions, the Wirraway did successfully ‘challenge’ the enemy.

755 Wirraway aircraft were made. It had a maximum speed of 254 km/h, a crew of 2 and a range of around 1,000 km.



Restored Wirraway

Sources: Wikipedia, Google Images

Yarning Circle

Awarding The Next Generation of Leaders: Deadly Encouragement Awards 2019

The fourth annual Deadly Encouragement Awards were held on October 17 at Waniora Public School in Bulli, celebrating and recognising Northern Illawarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students doing great things in their community. The aim of the awards is to make children feel valued by acknowledging and rewarding their efforts.

The word 'deadly' is a modern colloquialism used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to indicate something that is seen as cool or exceptional, especially by young people.

Since its inception, the event – which rewards preschool, primary, secondary, TAFE and university students – has grown annually with over 55 schools invited to nominate students this year including Holy Spirit College Bellambi, St Columbkille's Corrimal and St Michael's Thirroul.

Awards are given for a range of accomplishments ranging from attendance, community involvement, entertainment, sport and music.

"The *Deadly Encouragement Awards* recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school children who might miss out in conventional achievement-based merit systems," said Kim Hobbs, CEDOW Special Project Officer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Support. "The awards recognise children who consistently apply effort in all areas of their schooling."

"By acknowledging and rewarding students' efforts, the aim is for our children to feel valued, to encourage a stronger sense of identity, and in the future, inspire them to be strong, effective leaders and role

models to younger children in our community."

Several students from Northern Illawarra Catholic schools were presented with medallions and certificates by CEDOW Professional Assistant to the Director of Schools for Strategic Planning and Policy, Mark Raue. Award winners from CEDOW schools included Euan Colquhoun and Kaitlyn Burling from Holy Spirit College Bellambi, Jack McPhee and Willow Russell from St Columbkille's Corrimal and Ruben Mayers from St Michael's Thirroul.

"Receiving the *Deadly Award* made me grateful and proud," said Willow who was nominated for being a keen participant in all celebrations and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. "I will continue to be helpful at my school [St Columbkille's Corrimal] and represent us at out of school community functions."

Meanwhile, Jack was nominated for keenly participating in all cultural and environmental learning opportunities at St Columbkille's, and readily assisting younger students



to increase their understanding and involvement.

"I'm grateful for participating in the awards ceremony, as it makes me proud to celebrate my Aboriginal heritage," he said. "Outside of school, community work will always be important to me, by helping my family and others."

The awards are an important accolade for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, according to St Michael's Thirroul Middle Leader 2, Eliza Treble.

"When our students are successful in achieving this special award, it gives them a great sense of pride and achievement," said Eliza. "The awards ceremony is a unique event that provides inspiration to our Aboriginal students to always try their best and know that they are part of an important, special and caring community."

Another promising student, Ruben Mayers, was awarded for his work in the school's Leaders of Faith and Community team, consistently giving up his time to plan and be part of liturgies and assemblies.

"Ever since my brother received this award, I wanted to try and get this also. This year I was lucky enough to receive the *Deadly Award* and go to the ceremony with my family and teachers," Ruben recalled.

"I also got to meet some of the most successful and hard-working Aboriginal people who have been really involved with wanting to be recognised for being Aboriginal and not caring what other



people say and think about them."

Holy Spirit College Bellambi's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander School Contact, Kelli Grose, said that the school is incredibly grateful to be a part of the *Deadly Encouragement Awards*.

"[Students] feel a stronger sense of identity and more connected to their culture," she said. "The recognition makes them feel valued and encourages them to be strong leaders and role models to others in the community."

Holy Spirit's students, Euan Colquhoun and Kaitlyn Burling, received *Deadly Awards* recognising and honouring their enthusiasm and dedication to their culture and for displaying a positive attitude towards their learning and education.

Year 11 student, Euan, said, "I really enjoyed sharing the [awards] with my family. I'm proud of my culture and it was terrific to receive a *Deadly Award* recognising this. The award inspires me to do more within the community."

The importance of the awards was summed up by Year 7 student, Kaitlyn. "The *Deadly Encouragement Awards* are a great way to recognise young Aboriginal people who don't necessarily receive acknowledgement publicly and talk about their culture," she said. "Sharing my story through the *Deadly Awards* makes me proud of my background. It means I'm not afraid of talking about being a young Aboriginal girl."

The Deadly Encouragement Awards are organised by the Northern Illawarra Aboriginal Education Consultative Group.



Wiradjuri Language Lessons



In June, Kinder and Year 6 commenced Wiradjuri Language lessons with Mr Brian AhSee and Mr Anthony Riley from the NSW AECG local office. Wiradjuri is the language of the Aboriginal people local to our Dubbo and surrounding areas. It was exciting for everyone to start this new venture teaching language to our students and our aim at St John's Primary is to have all students participate in these language lessons in the near future.

All classes learnt how to say "Good Day" and introduce themselves. Kinder learnt some numbers and Year 6 will learn how to do an Acknowledgement to Country in language!



yiradhu
marang

good day



guwayu

later



NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

at James Ruse Agricultural High School

NAIDOC Week is an Australian event lasting from the first Sunday in July until the following Sunday. NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Due to school holidays our school celebrated the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee theme Voice Truth Treaty this week. The Principal addressed the assembly highlighting the importance of this year theme. Dave Lardner from Ryde Local AECG was the guest speaker while Desmond Barton and Warren Bridges from State AECG led the Aboriginal dance and didgeridoo performance. Two students, Michihiko Killalea and David Wang spoke beautifully about this year theme and its origin. The theme "*Voice Truth Treaty*" suggests providing more opportunities for Aboriginal peoples to have a say and express their opinions. Aboriginal performer Desmond Barton explained different cultural dances and their significance. The guest speakers also brought a number of didgeridoos and encouraged our male students to give it a go. It is not culturally appropriate for women to use didgeridoo. The students loved this interactive learning of indigenous culture.

We would love to continue working with Ryde AECG to improve our understanding of the First Nation peoples and their aspiration for the future and how we can be part of it.



Language Spectacular



To celebrate the International Year of the World's Indigenous languages the NSW AECG held a Language Spectacular for school students. In October about 300 students from across the Wiradjuri, Paakantji and Gamillaroi Nations showcased their languages through song, poems and monologues during two days of performances which brought great pride and educational engagement for all involved.

"Tonight we heard our young people sing proudly in languages that our ancestors were forbidden to speak...experiences like the past few days, not only to perform, but to meet and be with one another, these experiences are how we honour the old ways and give us profound hope for the future."
(Ros McGregor NSW AECG North West 1 Regional Rep)

"It breaks the cycle of 'shame' with students." (NSW AECG Senior Project Officer – David Towney)

"It was a heartfelt and moving experience which I was very grateful to be a part of"
(Collarenibri Central School Principal)





Snapshots

from across the State



Coffs Harbour Local AECG's Connecting to Country



Collarenebri Central School and Collarenebri Local AECG celebrated NAIDOC yesterday with Rowena Public School. Those little porcupines just look too deadly!!

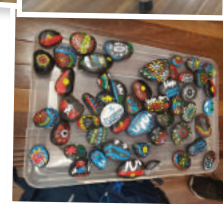


Djanangmum - Casino Local AECG Connecting to Country

Snapshots from across the State



Fairfield Local AECG Koori Kulture Day! Over 200 students from 27 of our partnering schools engaged in a fun day of cultural learning, sharing and connecting. Thank you Bossley Park Public School for hosting us this year.



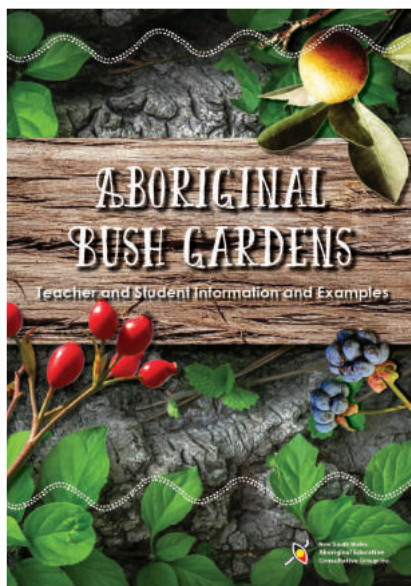
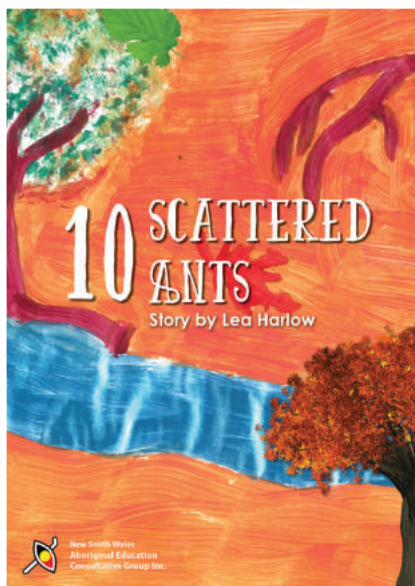
Goulburn Local AECG's 2nd public debut with a float in the Lilac Parade!



Our Wiradjuri Language Educators Brian Ah See and Anthony Riley helped open the new Royal Flying Doctors Visitors Centre In Dubbo.

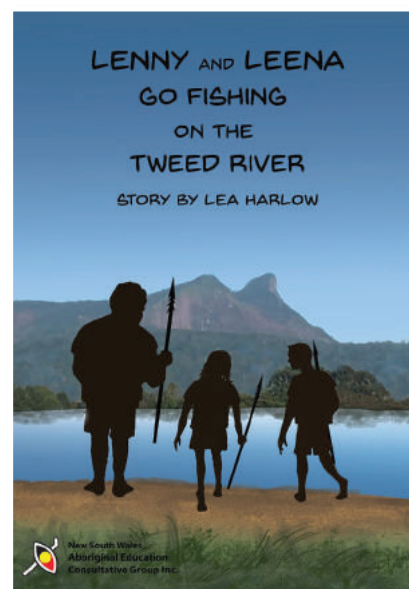
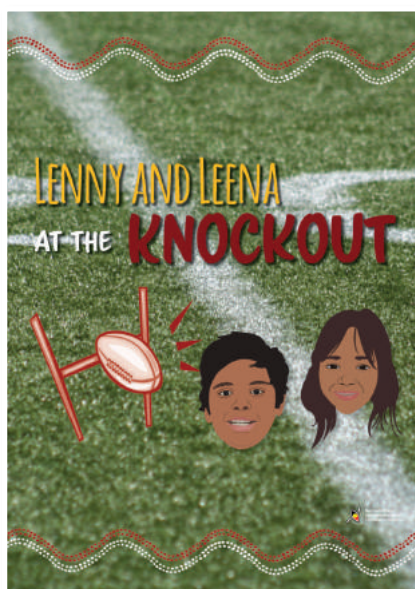
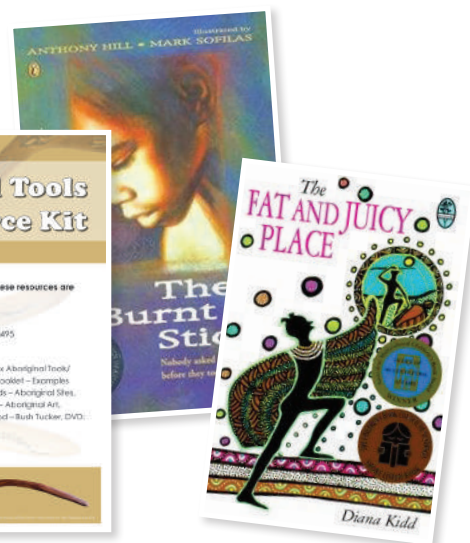
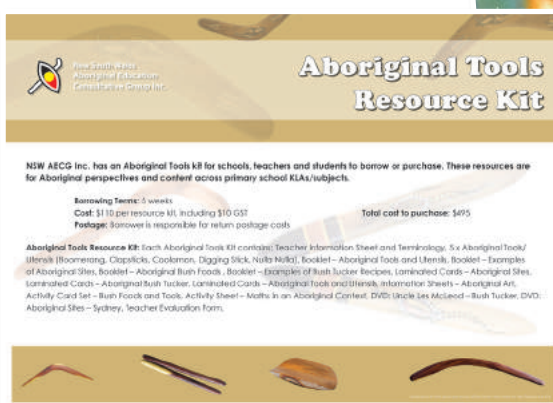
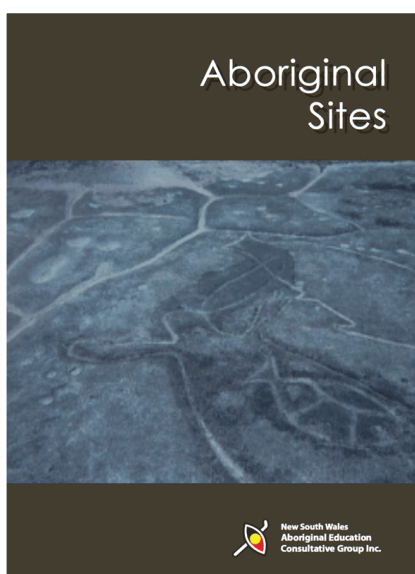
They did a traditional dance, explained the meaning of the dances and told the large audience gathered about culture and their work in ensuring our languages stay strong.

TEACHING RESOURCES



All kits
come with
teaching
and learning
activities

Head to our website to purchase:
<https://aecgservices.com.au/product-category/resources/>





Contact Us

NSW AECG Inc.
37 Cavendish Street
Stanmore NSW 2048

Phone: (02) 9550 5666

Fax: (02) 9550 3361

Email: info@aecg.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.aecg.nsw.edu.au

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