



## NAIDOC CELEBRATIONS

On July 28, St Paul's Primary School in Mildura celebrated NAIDOC Day. Hundreds of students and community members participated in the day. The day began with an acknowledgement of country, liturgy, flag raising and smoking ceremony. Uncle Peter led the community in the smoking ceremony to cleanse and ward off bad spirits, while Uncle Ivan and St. Paul's Indigenous students led the prayer and raised the Indigenous flag. It was a deeply moving and spiritual ceremony for all present.

Children from all classes then participated in a range of activities to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The school

specifically focused on the cultures of the local Indigenous people, the Latje Latje and Barkindji people and recognized the valuable contributions that they make to our community. Students enjoyed a variety of activities including, learning the Wemba Wemba language, Indigenous art & games, a quiz about famous Indigenous Australians, sampling Indigenous food and an incredible Indigenous dance performance by our very own Boomerang Boys.

The students were all able to sample kangaroo tail stew, freshly baked damper, kangaroo sausage, bush tomato relish, bush tomato dip, lemon myrtle butter and quandong jam. The Kangaroo tail being a big hit with many of the students.

The day could not have been run without the support of the Indigenous students, their parents, grandparents and friends. Their contributions have enriched the community and St Paul's deeply values their support and their willingness to share and celebrate their culture with us.

*Naomi Kennedy - Deputy Principal, Wellbeing/Special Ed leader*



Uncle Peter and Uncle Ivan sharing their culture and wisdom

*Below: Performances by St Paul's Boomerang Boys lead by Nathan Yates*

