This edition of the Koorie Perspectives in Curriculum Bulletin features:

- Launch of the Coranderrk – Minutes of Evidence Teacher Resource Package
- National Literacy Week and Indigenous Literacy Day readings.
- Koorie seasons and Aboriginal astronomy – a view at stellar landscapes and Aboriginal narratives.

In this bulletin, you’ll find Victorian Curriculum links to Content Descriptions. Select the code and it will take you directly to the Victorian Curriculum site with additional elaborations.

We know that Aboriginal people are the best equipped and the most appropriate people to teach Indigenous knowledge. Therefore wherever possible you should seek to involve your local Koorie community in education programs that involve Aboriginal perspectives. For some guidance about working with your local Koorie community to enrich your teaching program, see VAEAI’s Protocols for Koorie Education in Primary and Secondary Schools.

For a summary of key Learning Areas and Content Descriptions directly related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures within the Victorian Curriculum F-10, select the link for a copy of the VCAA’s: Learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

We’re extremely pleased to announce the release of the CORANDERRK - TEACHER RESOURCE PACKAGE.

Aligned to the Victorian Curriculum, this online resource package is targeted to Years 9 and 10 History, and Civics & Citizenship, and can be easily adapted for other year levels.

The Coranderrk - Teacher Resources Package was developed by Social Education Victoria Inc. in partnership with the Vic. Department of Education and Training and the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc., as part of the Minutes Of Evidence Project (hosted by the University of Melbourne and funded by the Australian Research Council 2011-2016).

The Minutes of Evidence project overall sheds light on a little-known chapter of Victoria’s past, the 1881 Parliamentary Inquiry into the Aboriginal Reserve at Coranderrk, in order to spark conversations about history and structural justice, and to raise awareness about the importance of collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to promote a just and shared future. The project creates 'meeting points' in schools, on Country, in theatres and between scholars, so that the nation’s past — and present — can be explored, shared and interrogated in new and engaging ways.

The Coranderrk Teacher Resource Package, containing various audio/video and written materials, is housed on FUSE (Find, Use, Share Education) - a Department of Education and Training (Victoria) digital repository and sharing space. Materials offer links to useful
websites, relevant images, video, audio, documents and other rich media types with resources tagged according to school audience.

A filmed version of the verbatim play, Coranderrk: we will show the country, has been produced specifically for this resource. Teachers and students are able to stream or download the video clips scene by scene, for use in their humanities classrooms. In addition, interviews with writers and the cast of this production have been provided to offer important background and context to the production.

Using this resource as part of the curriculum:
This resource has been designed for use primarily with the Victorian Curriculum, focused on the Years 9 and 10 Humanities (History and Civics & Citizenship) subjects. Resources on the site have been linked where possible to the relevant strands of History: ‘Historical Concepts and Skills’ and ‘Historical Knowledge’; and Civics and Citizenship: ‘Government and Democracy’, ‘Laws and Citizens’, and ‘Citizenship, Diversity and Identity’.

The history engaged with in this resource is for all Victorians (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) AND importantly not limited to those who were or are part of Coranderrk. While Coranderrk is a central element, and the land on which it exists is Wurundjeri, it is essential that we also consider Aboriginal perspectives that go beyond any one perspective. For example, there were other reserves/missions in Victoria – and Aboriginal people from other communities and areas across Australia - whose movements and cultural expressions were determined and controlled by government policies and management practices.

Click on the FUSE link http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/?8X2S9B to access the package.

For any communication related to the Minutes of Evidence Coranderrk Curriculum & Teacher Resource Package, including ideas and suggestions, please contact the team by email at: sevcoranderrkcurriculum@gmail.com.

Victorian Curriculum:

VCHHK094 The different experiences and perspectives of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, migrants, women, and children: History 5-6

VCHHK134 Intended and unintended causes and effects of contact and extension of settlement of European power(s), including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: History 9-10

VCHHK152 Causes of the struggle of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for rights and freedoms before 1965: History 9-10

VCHHK156 Continuity and change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in securing and achieving civil rights and freedoms in Australia: History 9-10

VCHHC121 Sequence significant events in chronological order to support analysis of the causes and effects of these events and identify the changes they brought about: History 9-10

VCHHC123 Analyse and corroborate sources and evaluate their accuracy, usefulness and reliability: History 9-10

VCHHC127 Analyse the long term causes, short term triggers and the intended and unintended effects of significant events and developments: History 9-10

VCHHC124 Analyse the different perspectives of people in the past and evaluate how these perspectives are influenced by significant events, ideas, location, beliefs and values: History 9-10
September

National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2017 is held from 4 to 10 September. National Literacy and Numeracy Week helps to raise awareness of the importance of literacy and numeracy at school and beyond.

There are many ways to get involved in 2017, and when it comes to Indigenous Literacy, we believe that EVERY DAY should be about Indigenous literacy. There’s a host of fantastic books written and illustrated by Aboriginal people across the nation.
Two copies of a promotional poster have been sent to every Australian school, but you can also download a high-resolution version of the official National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2017 poster [PDF 611KB] here.

You can share your ideas and thoughts for National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2017 via the campaign’s social media channels, Facebook and Twitter. You can also subscribe to the National Literacy and Numeracy Week 2017 YouTube channel, which includes promotional videos and a variety of student activities.

**Indigenous Literacy Day** is celebrated during Literacy Week, on the first Wednesday in September annually, and aims to raise funds to raise literacy levels and improve the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Australians living in remote and isolated regions. This year, Indigenous Literacy Day is held on **Wednesday 6th September**.

Throughout the year, explore a range of Aboriginal literature with your students, children’s stories like TomTom, fiction, plays, poetry essays, and autobiographies such as The Black Swan: A Koorie Woman’s Life by Gunai/Kurnai author and artist Eileen Harrison.

The Black Swan charts the way the policy of assimilation impacted on Eileen's family at Lake Tyers and her emerging talent as a painter.

With younger students, focus on stories such as those suggested on the Better Beginnings site: Deadly books for little kids. The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages (VACL) has published a selection of Victorian children’s stories, and check out the adventures of The Little Black Trackas by Victorian Bangerang educator and author Esme Bamblett.

Source or download a copy of *Nyernila: Listen Continuously – Aboriginal Creation Stories of Victoria* for a range of Victorian creation stories as told by Traditional Owners.

With older students study the highly readable novel Digger J. Jones by prominent Gunditjmara author Richard Franklin. Teaching notes offer a range of class discussion points. Told in diary form, Digger J. Jones tells the story of Digger - an Aboriginal boy caught up in the events of the 1960s and the lead up the 1967 Referendum which officially counted Aboriginal people in Australia as citizens in the eyes of the Federal Government. This short novel is especially relevant this year, being the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum.

The Macquarie Pen Anthology of Aboriginal Literature, edited by Wiradjuri (NSW) writer Anita Heiss and Peter Minter is worth exploring with older students. The anthology includes journalism, petitions and political letters from both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as major works that reflect the blossoming of Aboriginal poetry, prose and drama from the mid-twentieth century onwards.
Five Indigenous female writers who should be on school reading lists:

According to writer Anita Heiss, as we move into appropriately embedding Indigenous perspectives into the … curriculum, and we increasingly recognise the need to move away from a homogenous reading experience, these are the women writers and their works that Australian educators in particular (secondary and tertiary) should be adding to their reading lists and class discussions. Here is a selection of the more powerful novels that should be considered for inclusion:

*Mullumbimby* — Melissa Lucashenko (2014)

Set in the northern NSW town of the same name, this is an emotionally powerful and impossible-to-put-down read. Through its main characters Jo Breen and her lover, the gorgeous Two Boy Jackson, readers get a glimpse into the complex meaning of connection to country, Bundjalung country specifically. Their relationship is offset against a story about native title, and the difficulties faced by many if not most claimants today, especially on the east coast that bore the brunt of colonisation. The novel has a raw honesty, and is dotted with shocking but hilarious one-liners.


Home won the David Unaipon Award in 2002 and the Commonwealth Writers’ Prize in the South-East Asia region three years later. It is the story of three generations of removed children in NSW. Also recommended is Behrendt’s second novel, Legacy, for a basic understanding of the meaning of sovereignty and the history of land rights.

*The Boundary* — Nicole Watson (2009)

Set in Brisbane’s West End, The Boundary has everything: native title, community activism, black bureaucrats, police thuggery and black deaths in custody, infidelity, and racism – all wrapped up in a multi-murder mystery. Eloquently written by a first-time novelist, Birri-Gubba/Yugembeh lawyer Nicole Watson, it won the David Unaipon Award in 2009.

*Mazin’ Grace* — Dylan Coleman (2012)

Coleman won the David Unaipon Award in 2011 with this, a fictionalised account of her mother’s childhood at the Koonibba Lutheran Mission in 1940s and 1950s South Australia. It is one of the few novels by a First Nations writer that embeds her traditional language within the text.

*Butterfly Song* — Terri Janke (2005)

Janke’s work is pretty much my idea of the ‘great Australian novel’. It covers the geography from Sydney to Cairns and the Torres Strait, and manages to be a love story, crime novel, legal lesson, and a comment on contemporary Indigenous Australians who live in cities, go to university and contribute to every part of the nation’s society. And it’s a treasure trove of eloquent writing.

Source: [https://www.theguardian.com/culture/australia-culture-blog/2014/jul/08/five-indigenous-female-writers-who-should-be-on-school-reading-lists](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/australia-culture-blog/2014/jul/08/five-indigenous-female-writers-who-should-be-on-school-reading-lists)
Throughout September this year, Victoria has experienced some pretty wild weather with temperatures reaching extreme lows and winds tearing through... Despite these crazy weather patterns, flowers are budding, leaves are growing on deciduous trees and birds are getting busy making their nests.

Take some time to reflect on and explore Koorie perspectives on Seasons in your region, such as the 6-7 seasons of the Wurundjeri, and learn about how seasonal change is signalled through plants, animals and other signs such as the night sky; and wherever possible, invite knowledgeable Koorie cultural educators into the classroom to discuss their own perspectives and stories.

Download the Koorie Seasons resource for suggested activities and a range of online resources.

For broader perspectives, see the Bureau Of Meteorology Indigenous Weather Knowledge page.

Focus some learnings around the night sky. The sky was and remains a stellar calendar indicating when the seasons are shifting and when certain foods are available. For example within the spread of the Milky Way an emu is visible – not a constellation as such but a clear emu shape formed in the blend of star and black matter. At different times of the year this Emu in the Sky is oriented so it appears to be either running or sitting down. When the emu is ‘sitting’, it’s time to collect their eggs.

Stephen Gilchrist, Indigenous art curator at Melbourne’s National Gallery of Victoria, is spreading the message. He mounted an exhibition called Shared Sky featuring works by artists depicting Australia’s night sky. Stephen, from Western Australia’s Inggarda language group, explains:

“Aboriginal ancestral narratives aren’t just about the land – they’re also about the Sun, the Moon and the stars. Indigenous people have a very holistic understanding of the universe. It doesn’t just stop at the horizon.”

The Boorong people in north western Victoria looked to the Mallee Fowl constellation, Neilloan (Lyra), to tell them when they should harvest the bird’s eggs. When Neilloan appeared in the north-west sky around April, they knew the birds would be preparing their mound-like nests. The disappearance of Neilloan in late September or early October, this time of year, meant it was time to start gathering. And in recent years, Australian researchers have realised that the eruption of a huge star 150 years ago was recorded and incorporated into the oral traditions of the Boorong People living near Lake Tyrell in north-western Victoria. For more details read the Australian Geographic article.

Read this article for more details about Neilloan, including the annual meteor showers occurring from April 16 to 25, and especially on the morning of 23 April, when a series of streaks radiate out from Neilloan, reportedly reminding us of the bits of sand, twigs and other matter flying through the air as the Malleefowl kicks material on or away from the mound.

For those wanting to further pursue an interest in Aboriginal Astrology, check out and follow the Aboriginal Astronomy Project’s dedicated Facebook Page.
Tracking the Seven Sisters is an exhibition being held at the Australian National Museum in Canberra from the 15th September to the 25th February, 2018. Click on the dome for more information and an interactive digital experience focused on Walinynga, also known as Cave Hill, a significant Seven Sisters Tjukurpa (Dreaming) site in the Anangu, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands of remote north-west South Australia. Here the exploits of the Seven Sisters and their pursuer, the shape-shifter Wati Nyiru, are revealed in rich layers of rock art, and in the features of the cave and its surrounds. Until recently, the rock art of Walinynga has only been seen by a few visitors, in the company of the traditional owners. This interactive allows you to explore Walinynga and engage with the Seven Sisters at this special place.

To take astronomy learnings further, explore CyberSky. CyberSky is an accurate, easy-to-use planetarium program that provides an excellent way to learn about astronomy and explore the sky visible in the distant past, the present, and the far-off future. CyberSky can display and print highly-customizable maps of the sky as seen from your home, your favourite vacation spot, or any other location on the Earth. The program’s clean, user-friendly interface makes it easy to identify the objects you see in the sky and find the objects you want to see.

One keen 3rd year physics student – Kirsten Banks - a young Wiradjuri Aboriginal woman from NSW has taken her passion for the sky further. The 20-year-old tour guide and astronomy educator at the Sydney Observatory is currently working towards a future in the field of science communication and archeo-astronomy — the study of the astronomical knowledge of ancient cultures. Once she graduates, Ms Banks plans to pursue a PhD in physics and do research with elders all across Australia to learn about their use of astronomy. Click this recent ABC news article to read more.

Produced by the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI), September 2017.

Any enquiries, feedback and suggestions are welcomed, by contacting VAEAI on (03) 94810800 or emailing vaso@vaeai.org.au.

For more Koorie Perspectives, see the VAEAI Koorie Education Calendar.