

MEDIA RELEASE

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Rural schools get a taste for culture

A five-day Bush Tucker and Culture Tour visited rural and remote schools in southern Queensland last week, promoting local Aboriginal culture.

Over 480 students from 16 schools participated in the tour, which was organised by staff from local natural resource management group, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC).

Cultural presentations included a session on bush tucker presented by Dale Chapman from The Dillybag. Students were able to sample a range of traditional foods, including bush honey, emu meat and bush tomato relish.

Gamilaraay dancers taught students traditional Gamilaraay and Yeralaraay dances, and gave them the opportunity to get painted up using traditional colours and ochre. Other students learnt the skills behind throwing a boomerang...and making it come back.

Teacher Chris Ford, from Hebel State School, said that the cultural day was a great way for all of the students to get engaged. "They are enjoying stepping out of their comfort zone to have a taste of a different culture," he said. "The students are able to see that there is more out there than what they learn in the classroom."

The students were all very enthusiastic about the day's activities. Rachel Hourigan, from Dirranbandi State School, said she most enjoyed learning about the traditional dancing. "It was really fun learning about the games they used to play as well," she said.

Organiser, Tim Knox, from QMDC, said that he was really pleased so many students were able to attend the tour. "The smaller, more remote schools often miss out on events such as this due to distance," he said. "It's fantastic that we were able to reach these students, so they can learn about Aboriginal culture, in particular Gamilaraay culture first hand."

The Bush Tucker and Culture Tour visited Bungunya, Dirranbandi, Begonia, Mitchell and Dulacca State Schools. For more information, contact Tim Knox on 07 4637 6270.

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Presenters share Gamilaraay and Yeeralaraay culture with students.



'Painting up' in preparation for Gamilaraay and Yeralaraay dancing.



Tim Knox, QMDC Aboriginal Program Coordinator doing some ochre ground painting with students at Dulacca State School.



Students try boomerang throwing at Bungunya State School.



Students learning Gamilaraay and Yeralaraay dances.