

Book Week meets Llama Year: A Global Classroom

2024 was proclaimed the United Nations International Year of Camelids. This global celebration of alpacas, Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas and vicuñas highlights their importance to the livelihoods of people across over 90 countries.

Camelids thrive and continue to provide transport, milk, meat and fibre for communities in many arid and semi-arid regions of Africa and Asia. The International Year of Camelids 2024 aims to build awareness of the untapped potential of camelids as they thrive where other species cannot survive. It's also a call for further research into this group of climate-resilient animals.

Our STEM Captains Annabelle Desmond and Anjana Kailasanathan (Year 11) ran a range of activities across the school to raise awareness of the role of camelids in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Goals related to the fight against hunger, the eradication of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women and the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

The celebrations started with the arrival of our unnamed space llama at our FabLab and STEMgineer exhibition stand at the Cocurricular showcase in Term 1. We ran a competition to name the llama, and with some fantastic entries like "Nebullama", "Luna", "Lemonade" and even "Llisa" suggested by Mrs Brown herself, we put the names to public vote on the STEM page in Term 2. Our space llama was officially named "Macca Pacca", the name suggested by our winners, Riana Puri and Maria Poulos (Year 9).

In Term 3, we had a Lego mascot STEMgineer wearing a llama hat all through STEM week and ran a llama picture colouring-in competition. Anjana and Annabelle sourced two big books: *Dharma the Llama* and *Macca the Alpaca* by Matt Crossgrove. Senior School students signed the books and wrote words of encouragement about reading and STEM.

Most recently, Anjana and Annabelle presented these books to the Junior School Lingwood Library. They both recommend *Dharma the Llama* – a delightful book all about a llama who loves to read fiction and non-fiction and uses her innovative strategies that she learns from reading to solve a whole range of problems.

The Pre-Kindergarten students enjoyed reading these books with Anjana and Anabelle and participated in an interesting discussion about the role of camelids in Australian society.

Mrs Alexandra Phillips

Coordinator of Learning Link – Innovation



The newly named Macca Pacca



Anjana and Annabelle in the Lingwood library