

Year 2 students connect to Country

Last year, Year 2 students welcomed Mr Shane Hinton, a proud Wonnarua and Kamilaroi man and father of Grace and Eloise Hinton, for a meaningful learning experience. The session began with an Acknowledgement of Country and a yarning circle, creating an open space for listening and sharing.

Shane spoke about what “Country” means to him and explained that caring for Country is about being gentle. “We don’t take more than we need; we keep the land clean, protect the animals, and make sure the water stays healthy. When we treat Country with respect, it remains strong for everyone,” said Shane.



Shane engaging with students during the experience

He also shared the story of the Cooks River, which flows through Strathfield on Wangal Country. Historically, the river was soft and winding, lined with trees and reeds, and teeming with wildlife. The Wangal people fished, gathered food, and camped along its banks. Today, while the river looks different with parks and paths, we are still walking on Wanne, land cared for by the Wangal people.

To make the experience even more engaging, Shane brought along Aboriginal artefacts, including boomerangs, clapping sticks, and a kangaroo skin. Students were fascinated to see and learn about these cultural items firsthand.

To conclude, Grace and Eloise led a creative activity where students explored movement and dance to tell animal stories, connecting storytelling with culture in a joyful and engaging way.

Mr Hinton’s visit was a truly special learning experience for both staff and students.

Mrs Jennifer Wong
Dean of Curriculum