

Regional and Remote Case Study

My People, Country and Culture

Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Museum Victoria

2011



Working with Indigenous students connecting with culture

A recent exhibition (June 2011) at the Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre within Melbourne Museum showcased the views of Indigenous students from the Hume region of Victoria on how they connected with people, culture and country. The exhibition was an outcome of Museum Victoria's Indigenous Pathways project, which is designed to support Indigenous students as they connect with their cultural heritage. The exhibition, which was created by seven students from the Hume Region, explores themes of people, place and culture through objects, artworks, photographs and documents drawn from Museum Victoria's collections and personal objects.

Through the project the students experienced working at the Museum, spending time behind the scenes with staff from various departments and Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre. As they explored the collection the students discovered more about their cultural heritage, giving them the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be an Aboriginal person within their community. As one student explored the collections, she found photographs of relatives she had never seen before. These experiences are reflected in *My People, Culture and Country*. The students also created artworks and learned traditional practices such as weaving and making spears in workshops facilitated by Museum Victoria and Victorian Aboriginal artists. By creating this exhibition, the students have made their own connections between the past and the present and in the process developed a deeper appreciation of who they are and where they have come from.

My People, Culture and Country is part of the Bunjilaka Community Exhibition Program, an annual program of changing exhibitions celebrating the creativity of Koorie artists and communities from across Victoria. It was a partnership between Museum Victoria, Hume Region Local Learning and Employment Networks, Hume Region Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Wannik Unit and Hume Region Catholic Education. See <http://museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka/>