

CAMPBELLFIELD



Students Saraja (front), Johan and Mennah join Katherine Branch to make T-shirts as part of Campbellfield Heights Primary School's involvement in the KIND Program, encouraging fairness and celebrating differences. Picture: DENNIS MANKTELOW

All kinds of lessons

Natalie Filmer

ART FOCUSES ON FAIRNESS

THERE are plenty of kind children at Campbellfield Heights Primary School.

Grade 2/3 team leader Tamara McCabe said staff were rapt to see the way children were applying their learning about fairness and celebrating differences.

"They've been taught to take opportunities to compliment each other and then to say 'Thank you' and 'You're welcome'," Ms McCabe said.

"It's referred to as wrapping it up in a bow.

"Now we're seeing the children doing that (bow wrapping) action with their hands after they hear someone make a compliment. It's lovely."

The lessons have come via arts and community development organisation Kids Thrive's year-long arts-based KIND program.

The program uses an anti-bias framework to lead children to recognise,

embrace and celebrate their differences and to recognise and take action against unfairness.

"We're talking about combating bias and racism to eight and nine-year-olds, so we need to relate that to everyday life by asking, 'What is fair?' and, 'How can we make sure that everyone is included?'" Ms McCabe said.

During each KIND lesson children have been led by Kids Thrive artists to talk

about fairness and create songs that promote cultural empathy. The students will show off their performing skills to the wider school community on September 8 with a concert of original songs about fairness.

"The children have made T-shirts for their performance and we've had two concert practices," Ms McCabe said. "They're very excited about performing and showing what they have learnt."

HUME

Youths reflect on the Anzac spirit

YOUNG people are encouraged to capture the Anzac spirit in an upcoming competition.

This year's Youth Photography Competition, run by Hume Libraries, encourages those aged 12-18 to reflect on the Anzac centenary down the lens.

"The spirit of the Anzac has shaped Australia and continues to influence our relatively young nation," Hume mayor Adem Atmaca said.

"We'd love youth who live or study in Hume to experiment with their cameras and come up with a photo that helps to demonstrate how they view the Anzac story."

Last year almost 300 photos were submitted to the competition.

Categories are open to young people aged 12-14 and 15-18, with both winners receiving a digital SLR camera and runners-up getting a \$150 JB Hi-Fi voucher.

Submissions open Monday and will be accepted until 5pm on October 4.

Entrants can submit up to three photos each.

A series of free photography workshops will also be held in Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Sunbury during the September school holidays to help budding photographers refine their skills.

For more information, visit humelibraries.vic.gov.au



Last year's 12-14 years winner Caitlin Young. Picture: CARMELO BAZZANO

COOLAROO

Controversial mosque is moving ahead

THE owners of a Coolaroo property who plan to build a Muslim mosque say they hope to have it up and running in two years.

A controversial Hume Council decision in 2013 allowing the Al Sadiq Foundation to build the mosque next door to an Assyrian

church in Kyabram St was upheld by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in July last year following a lengthy trial.

The case gained much traction at the time, with heavy concern from members of the neighbouring St Mary's Ancient Church of

the East, many of whom fled persecution in Iraq.

Al Sadiq Foundation co-director Ali Durani said they were still working on building plans and drawings, with construction likely to start within six months to a year.

"We're hoping in about

two years maximum to have it up and going," Mr Durani said.

Hume Council's city sustainability director Kelvin Walsh said the permit required applicants to begin building within three years and have construction completed in six years.

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