

Exploring what makes Bunbury what it is

October 2013

The children of Child Side School are this semester exploring their identity and culture. As part of this process on Wednesday 16th October the whole school took to the streets of Bunbury to locate and find out about iconic buildings, environmental/geographical features, infrastructure, people and places of Bunbury that help define its identity and the identity of being a regional centre.

The excursion started at the Bunbury Art Gallery and headed out to the library and cathedral before the younger and older children spilt into groups to investigate different aspects of Bunbury. After approximately 4kms of walking and map reading they all met up again at the Dolphin Discovery centre for a well deserved lunch and break from walking.

During the excursion there were many highlights, starting with a great presentation by Claire Pendrigh about the Icons R Us and Iluka Visions exhibitions at the Art Gallery, and an extremely visual and enlightening talk at the Dolphin Discovery centre by Jan Tiernay about the aquatic life around us.

Many businesses and organisation helped make the day extremely successful by allowing the children to explore their offices and workplaces and talk to staff members to find out what 'adults do all day'. These included the City of Bunbury, Bunbury City & Regional Library, Bunbury Art Gallery, Brandicoots Web Design, Bunbury Port Authority and the Dolphin Discovery centre.

It was amazing just how many natural and constructed features we discovered dotted around Bunbury, each with their own story to tell such as: shipwreck Cove where 13 identified shipwrecks are buried under the sand; West Australia's southern most mangroves and how Marlstone Hill used to be covered in fuel tanks for the port.

Child Side principle Leonie O'Connell said that "days such as these are all made possible by the school's 'small by design' principles and their core educational philosophy of keeping learning active, authentic, engaging with adults in real contexts. This includes leaving the school environment to learn and then bring the world back into school to dig deeper (Big Picture education Australia)".

Child Side educator Rachel Wyder added that "the experience allowed the children to come face to face with many pieces that make up the past, present and future complex region we live in. The experience was made so amazing by the time and enthusiasm shown by all the people we met along the way, so thank you to all of you".

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Claire Pendrigh talking to the children about the Icons R Us exhibitions at the Art Gallery



The children interview Anna Edmundson at Bunbury City & Regional Library about her role and the organisation



When you look around there are many interesting features to be discovered in Bunbury such as this emu just outside the Bunbury Police Station



Jan Tiernay at the Dolphin Discovery centre was a wealth of knowledge, answering every question we threw at her