Iramoo PS renews its Koorie pride

It’s been a year since Iramoo Primary School introduced its Wannik strategy – and principal Moira Findlay said the students’ outlook has never been better. “We have noticed an improvement in engagement, which can certainly be measured by school attendance,” she said.

And the school’s Wannik strategy so impressed the parents of one previously home-schooled Koorie student they re-enrolled him last year. “The only reason he was in school was because of the Koorie program. Once we started the program he loved it so much his parents put him back in school.”

Ms Findlay said the school has around 25 Koorie students and each has an individual learning plan that was developed following discussions between their teacher and parents or carers. Students have also completed several projects designed to raise awareness of Koorie culture, including ‘When I was 10’ – a compilation of oral histories collected from members of the local Indigenous community, and The Story of Dyeerrm as told by the Indigenous Students of Iramoo Primary School – a claymation DVD that was screened at last December’s World Indigenous People’s Conference.

Ms Findlay said the Wannik strategy has raised the profile of Koorie culture and instilled a sense of pride in the students. “I believe our Koorie students are proud of who they are. The Aboriginal flag has flown every day. We’re very respectful of the culture,” she said. “The program has given them a sense of identity and pride and it’s just really embedded in the culture of the school that we have some significant groups here, and they should be really proud of who they are.”

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