



Dear Wyndham CEC Community

As Wyndham CEC's Child Safety Officer my role is to provide advice and raise awareness on child safety. This edition of our Child Safety and Wellbeing Newsletter reflects:

- Pride month—When is it and what is Pride Month
- The significance of the pride flag
- The history of Pride Month in Australia
- My time at Werribee River—Story from Werribee Community College student

When is Pride Month 2024?

Pride Month in Australia is celebrated annually in June. The reason why June is Pride Month is that it marks the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. These riots were a series of revolutionary demonstrations to revolt against the oppression of the LGBTQ+ community.

What is Pride Month?

Pride Month is an annual, dedicated month that focuses on and celebrates LGBTQ+ people and their history. It's a month centred around recognising and celebrating diversity in sexuality and identity, and promoting equal rights for all. Through Pride Month, the voices of marginalised individuals can be heard and given the focus to talk about issues concerning the LGBTQIA+ community

The symbol of pride is the rainbow flag, also known as the "**pride flag**". This flag was created by artist Gilbert Baker in 1978 and has been used as a symbol of the LGBTQ+ community ever since. The choice of the rainbow colours is especially significant as each colour represents its own concept, these being:

Red: symbolic of life
Orange: symbolic of healing
Yellow: symbolic of sunshine
Green: symbolic of nature
Blue: symbolic of harmony
Purple: symbolic of spirit



Previously, the flag had eight colours, with turquoise symbolising art and hot pink symbolising sex. This fluid nature of the flag continues today, with the flag having been revised in recent years with the addition of black and brown to represent people of colour with the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement. In addition, the colours pink, baby blue, and white were also recently added to give representation to transgender people.

Wyndham CEC's Commitment to Child Safety

Wyndham CEC wants children to be safe, happy and empowered and supports and respects children attending the Centre, as well as staff and volunteers.

"We are not what other people say we are. We are who we know ourselves to be, and we are what we love. That's okay." —
Laverne Cox

Wyndham CEC's Statement of Commitment

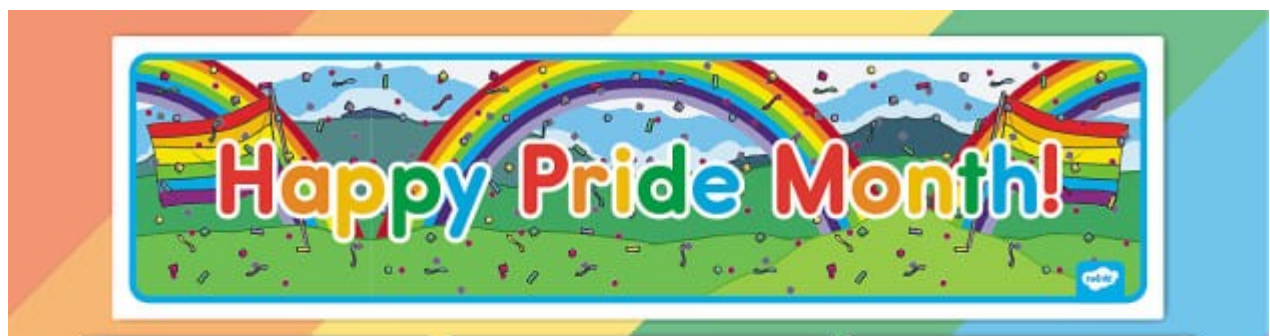
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The History of Pride Month in Australia

On the 24th June 1978, at 10 p.m., a celebration was held in Sydney known as the "Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras" to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall riots in America. The Stonewall riots were a series of demonstrations and protests held by the gay community in response to a police raid on a gay bar called the Stonewall Inn and the continued oppression that the LGBTQ+ community faced. The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras had a similar ethos and aimed to not only celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, but also act as a call to end discrimination against homosexuals.

Although the organisers had obtained permission for this parade, it was broken up by the police and 53 people were arrested. The next morning, The Sydney Morning Herald published their names, outing them to their friends, families, and employers. Many were made homeless and lost their jobs, as homosexuality was a crime in New South Wales until 1984.

Despite opposition, the second Mardi Gras Parade was held in 1979. This parade was held in recognition of the Stonewall riots and the Mardi Gras of the previous year, and 3,000 people attended. In the same year, a repeal of the Summary Offences Act was made by the Labour Government of New South Wales, the very act that the arrests were made under in the 1978 parade.



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Werribee Community College



OUR SCHOOL
STANDS UP FOR
INCLUSION
+
DIVERSITY



SAFE
SCHOOLS

THE
EDUCATION
STATE

VICTORIA
State
Government

Education
and Training

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Parents Information Page

Wyndham CEC has a strong commitment to Child Safety in the Werribee Community College as can be seen by the following:

- Wyndham CEC has a designated Child Safety Officer—Lesley Nallawalla.
- If you have any questions she can be contacted on :0409 218 071 or at 20 Synnot St, Head Office



Support Services

- **CHILD FIRST** <https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/referral-and-support-teams>
- **ORANGE DOOR** <https://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence/the-orange-door.html>
- **SUN SMART** <https://www.sunsmart.com.au>

24-hour telephone assistance is available through:

- **Kids Helpline (5 to 25 year olds)- 1800 55 1800**
- **Beyond Blue- 1300 22 4636**
- **Lifeline - 13 11 14**
- **1800 Respect - 1800 737 732**
- **MensLine Australia - 1300 789 978**
- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
- If you have been scammed online, visit www.scamwatch.gov.au.
- If you have been a victim of cybercrime, call the Australian Cyber Security Hotline on 1300 292 371 or visit www.cyber.gov.au.

The eSafety Commissioner website also has information to help parents with their children/young people if they are having any concerns or problems with social media or online activity. [CCYP | Resources](#)

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River Whispers. My time at Werribee River

Hello there, my name is Ben Thompson and today instead of staying in the same four walls that is the classroom, we packed up our stuff and went on a wonderful history packed trip to the beautiful Werribee River.

Our trip started at 10:15 this morning. At first, I was worried we wouldn't be back for lunch, but they told me we could bring ours and that we would be getting fish and chips! With the promise of food, I was skipping along the footpath but I wouldn't just be eating chocolate mud cake and chips. I would also be eating up knowledge of the long and rich history of the nearby river. We stop by various points around the River like the Briangs, the river itself and lots of the beautiful little areas around the river. Listening to the voices of the past and present telling us about their own personal experiences with the river and the long and truly amazing history surrounding it. Like did you know it was once called the X River?



The name came to be when the English came to colonise Australia and we all know how much respect they had for the Aboriginal people of the land (I'm being sarcastic) changed it to the X River to be more like England. Thankfully the name didn't stay long and was legally changed to its original name. Wirribi-Yaluk or as you and I would probably say, Werribee River.

It was a beautiful, dare I say, life changing little trip. But I think the most interesting part of the trip was the last step we did before lunch. We stopped at this little spot right next to the stream of water in the river and all around it were these beautiful twist trees. As we sat down and listened to the lovely voices telling us about how this

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River Whispers. My time at Werribee River - continued

area was once a trading post where three different tribes would come and trade fish and many other things in this place. It's so amazing to think of the people who came before me and what they were doing. I wonder if there was a boy my age from the past sitting down where I was just a couple of hours ago and what he was doing.

Overall, I loved this trip, I learned a lot and it was nice to walk around the beautiful river. We also got fish and chips so that was nice too.

Ben Thompson

