

St. Oswald's Anglican Church, Glen Iris

EMPOWER TO TEACH

This education project was the inspiration of the Rev. Canon Glenn Loughrey, a Wiradjuri man and Anglican priest at St. Oswald's Glen Iris in Victoria. He is an author, artist and pastor. Through delivering education sessions to local school children he saw clearly that school teachers across Australia needed appropriate educational materials and support to be able to convey a true understanding of indigenous culture, customs and history to children in a school setting.

The aim of the project can be expressed in the following words: *"We seek to start an important conversation in Australian schools and classrooms, by empowering teachers to include Indigenous culture and history in their curriculum and lesson plans."*

The project was directed by Glenn Loughrey, informed by his aboriginal background and life experience as well as his writings and artwork. The educational materials were prepared by Winifred Madigan and Hannah Schaub. Winifred is an experienced teacher and Hannah in a recent education graduate. Through their cultural training and experience they both have brought an inspired understanding and respect for Indigenous knowledge, culture and history to this project and its completion.

The teaching resources in the form of curriculum frameworks, lesson plans and resource lists were created and are downloadable from the **Empower To Teach** website. Materials have been prepared in three groups, being Foundation to year 2, years 3-6 and years 7-10.

The website, which holds all the educational resources and all other support material, was developed and project managed by Kat Loughrey, Digital Experience Strategist & Communications Consultant from Europe, who was engaged by St. Oswald's for the project. A link to the project website is as follows: <https://empowertoteach.com.au/about-program>.

This project was supported in part financially by Anglican Board of Mission and the National Council of Churches and through considerable in-kind support from members of St. Oswald's, the writers and the whole project team.

With this development project completed, the next phase is the promotion and use of the educational resources by schools across Australia for which a detailed plan is in place.

This project is just another example of the wonderful work, along with the Wominjeka Garden, new Myrnong Art Gallery, and the school's education programs, which shows the St. Oswald's dedication to the support of our indigenous community members, but also our desire to learn more about Aboriginal history, culture and language.

Peter Johnson
St. Oswald's, 3 January 2022.