Year 3/4 Excursion to Childers Historical Complex

On Friday, the 8th of March, the Year 3/4 students visited the Childers Historical Complex. We needed to find answers for our questions about the Aboriginal people who lived here in the past, and find out why the environment was so important to them.

We first met Mr Stewart who introduced us to Mr and Mrs Bunn. Mr Bunn had collected most of the artefacts on display over the years and both he and his wife have a vast knowledge of local Aboriginal History. They had given up their own time to come and answer our questions and to pass on what they knew.

Firstly, we found out that the Aboriginal people who lived here in the past were the Butchella people, part of the Gubbi Gubbi language group. We saw photos of their shelters, weapons, tools and canoes.

Some children were able to identify where the photos were taken and we talked about what had changed. We learnt about the areas in Childers that may have been sacred sites for the Butchella people and what trees, plants and animals they were able to use for food and medicine.
Next we looked at the artefacts Mr Bunn had collected from his land over the years. There were stone axes that were used to cut, small scoops and axes to use while eating, bowls to mix things in and trays to transport fire on. We saw spears, boomerangs and clubs that were used to hunt animals for food.

Then we learnt about a famous Local Aboriginal woman called Queen Maria of Childers. She used to live behind the courthouse and was well liked in the community. She was given a breastplate from the European settlers with her name on it, and this treasure is being kept safe somewhere as they are so rare. Queen Maria is buried in Apple Tree Creek and her grave is still able to be seen.

We would like to thank Mr Stewart and Mr and Mrs Bunn for their time showing us around the complex and passing on their valuable knowledge to us. We were left amazed and in awe of the resourcefulness of the Butchella people, and were able to answer most of the questions we had formulated during History lessons and homework.