

GOONDEEN NEWSLETTER 2025

Happy 2025! We hope it has started well for you, your colleagues, students and families after a restful break.

Here's the latest updates from The Goondeen Institute.

Professional Development Sessions (PDS)

Following from our very successful, complimentary PDS last year, which saw 80 teachers from 30 schools

express interest in attending, we have just held our first in-house PDS for 2025 at Moorooka State School.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

We are currently negotiating with many schools wanting to book Goondeen PD sessions for 2025. Some examples:

- one school group has approximately 150 schools under its jurisdiction
- another school group has around 250 staff it wants put through the PDS.

If you are interested in a PDS, please visit
<https://www.goondeen.com.au/make-a-booking/>

or
call Bill on 0418 196707

THE GOONDEEN CHOICE GAME

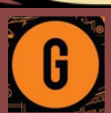
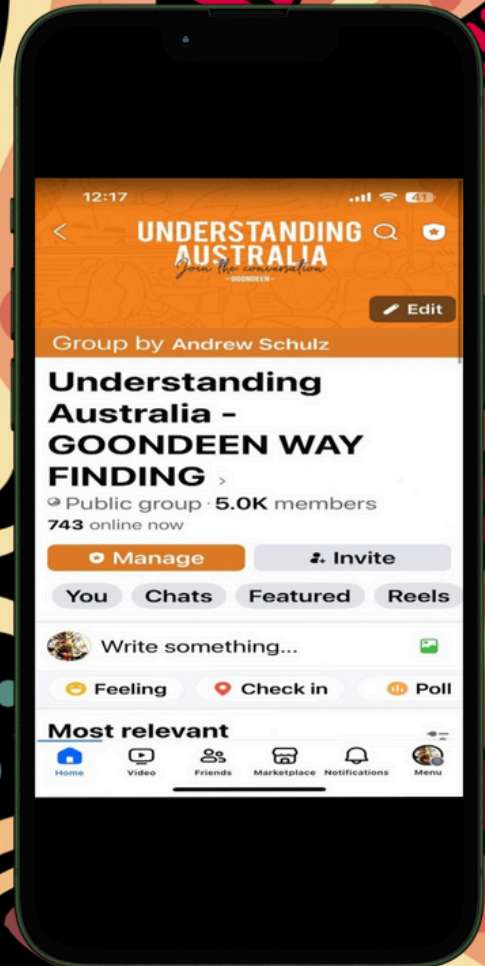


Based on feedback from QUT postgraduate students, Goondeen Guardians, etc, we have developed 2 prototypes of The Goondeen Game (one for students and one for adults) which are ready for mass production. The game has been 'Australianised', ie the traditional 'snakes' and 'ladders' have been replaced with 'kangaroos' and 'goannas'

Anybody interested in finding out more details, please contact Bill on 0418 196707.

GOONDEEN DISCUSSION GROUP

The Goondeen Team promotes discussion across a broad range of topics. If you would like to participate in positive and far-reaching discussion with our other members, then please ask to join the Facebook discussion group UNDERSTANDING AUSTRALIA - GOONDEEN WAY FINDING (to find out more click on Understanding Australia - GOONDEEN WAY FINDING | Facebook).



The Goondeen Educational Resources (GER)



Based on feedback from various focus groups (including teachers), it was recommended that we develop these resources, especially to support non-Indigenous teachers. So far, 18 resources have been developed:

Goondeen: understanding Australia

Goondeen: understanding Australia (Chinese translation)

The Three Goondeens Educational Resource

- Teacher's Manual (Prep & Primary)
- Teacher's Manual (Secondary)

Aboriginal Tent Embassy

Adaptability

Goondeen: understanding Australia

International Indigenous Day

Resilience

Teacher's Educational Kit

Goondeen Choice (board game)

Becoming a Goondeen

Courage

Quiz*i

NAIDOC Focus

National Reconciliation Week

Three Goondeens (PowerPoint)

Teacher's manual (kindie) (being finalised)

GOONDEEN QUIZ (multi-choice answers)

In the context of "Goondeen", select the most apt answer to the following question:

Question

Give your best answer or answers!



'What is the 'Black Armband' view?'

Answers:

Tick your choice



i) The same as "white blindfold" history ?

Iv) Name of a football club ?

Iii) Showing respect for somebody who has died ?

v) Name of a rock band (music) ?

ii) Focus on Indigenous history ?

vi) None of the above ?

For more details, visit our website: www.goondeen.com.au

SOME TEACHER TESTIMONIALS ABOUT GOONDEEN:



• "...Goondeen gives educators the resources necessary to feel empowered to teach Indigenous perspectives with confidence...."

• "...When I found out what Goondeen meant, I was amazed that one word could explain such a deep, meaningful, sensitive and absolutely important message to me as a person and a teacher..."

• "...I felt excited to be an educator in modern times and inspired to contribute towards changing how our Australian history is taught to future generations. Goondeen gives educators the resources necessary to feel empowered to teach Indigenous perspectives with confidence..."

• "...Learning about Goondeen makes me even more determined to carry on attempting to spread clear messages about the importance of our ancient Aboriginal people, their knowledge and varied cultures. I now feel stronger from knowing that it's ok to use Goondeen and other quality resources and knowledges to present to my culturally-broad class groups year by year even though I'm not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander..."

The Goondeen Educational Initiative (GEI)

GEI is an adaptable program, as we aim to work with each school on what goals they wish to achieve. For example, one school has introduced the concept of Goondeen Guardians, a Goondeen garden, Goondeen gratitude postcards, Goondeen mural, Goondeen wagon wheel of success (see below), yarning circle (see below), etc.

One school's use of Goondeen



Yarning Circle



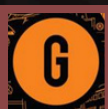
Goondeen Activities Already in Schools

Goondeen trees with value cards

students writing their Goondeen gratitude cards.



Goondeen yarning circle in progress with a Goondeen - Uncle Albert Dr Holt



OTHER NEWS

Some other Goodeen-related news
-The Everald Burger, named after one of the Goodeens (Everald Compton) is available at Brisbane's Royal on the Park Hotel.

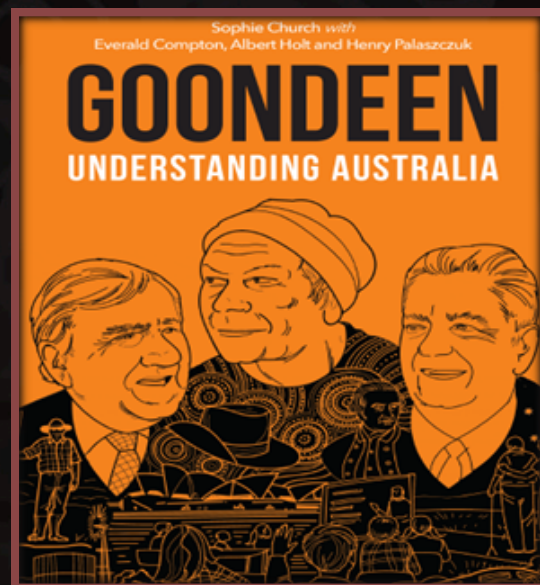
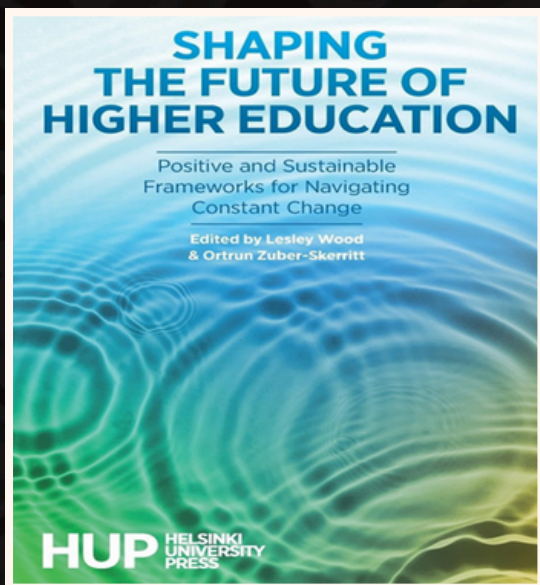


SPONSORSHIP

-GI co-sponsored the local Touch Football team on Stradbroke Island (Terrangeri/Minjerribah) in a First Nation's memorial competition in late 2024



-In a recently published book (The Shaping the Future of Higher Education, edited by Lesley Wood & Ortrun Zuber-Skerritt and published by HUP) Goondeen Institute is mentioned as a source for introducing Indigenous Knowledge into schools



-Another school has purchased 30 copies of 'Goondeen: understanding Australia,'

**WE THANK THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US IN THE PAST AND LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE.
ALL THE BEST FOR 2025.
IF YOU NEED ANY CLARIFICATION, PLEASE CONTACT ME.**

**M: 0418 196 707
E: INFO@GOONDEEN.COM.AU**

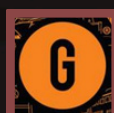
**REGARDS
BILL SYNNOT
CO-FOUNDER, GOONDEEN INSTITUTE**



Goondeen is a First Nation's word that was used in Cherbourg to describe a "wise, inspirational, compassionate, community-focussed, respected leader or sage".

Goondeen follows Indigenous LORE of "share, care and respect the land, the environment and the people". The Goondeen Institute reflects this as we acknowledge all Traditional Custodians across Australia and recognise First Nations' peoples' continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land, sky and waterways that surround us. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the Yuggera people as the Traditional custodians of the land that we live and work on.

NB Goondeen is a profit-for-purpose organisation, where profits go straight back into creating more resources.



www.goondeen.com.au