



Hello from the Goondeen team! Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024.

Hopefully everyone had a great holiday break, and you feel refreshed for the new year. To those impacted by the fires and/or storms in late 2023, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Goondeen activities continue:

- 'kindies' teacher's manual is being finalised
- Goondeen game is in a school being 'road tested' (see photo below) and variations are being developed
- other resources are being refined
- preparing for professional development sessions, etc
- discussions with other parties about forming joint ventures, etc are occurring.

Goondeen Institute representatives are in final stages of negotiations with a **group representing approximately 150 schools** who have expressed interest in using the **Goondeen Educational Resources (GER)**. This is in addition to **around 200 schools** who are already using some parts of the GER.

We are also negotiating with **QUT** to have some post-graduate students work on aspects of Goondeen, like the Goondeen Game, and are in discussions with additional resource writers.

Goondeen game

Some students 'road testing' the Goondeen Game



The Goondeen Educational Resources (GER)

Goondeen Institute's Professional Development and E-Resource Library provides the tools for teachers to feel safe and supported in teaching First Nations' perspectives in the classroom.



Based on findings from various focus groups (including teachers), it was recommended that we develop these resources, especially to support non-Indigenous teachers. So far, 16 resources have been developed:

1. Goondeen: understanding Australia	2. Goondeen: understanding Australia (Chinese translation)
3. Teacher's Manual (Prep & Primary)	4. Teacher's Manual (Secondary)
5. Teacher's Educational Kit	6. Three Goondeens (PowerPoint)
7. The Three Goondeens Educational Resource	8. Adaptability
9. Courage	10. Resilience
11. National Reconciliation Week	12. Becoming a Goondeen
13. Aboriginal Tent Embassy	14. NAIDOC Focus
15. International Indigenous Day	16. Teacher's manual (kindie) – being finalised

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

WHO WROTE THESE RESOURCES?



LYN TRILL

Lyn Trill has worked for many years in education, before moving into the corporate scene. Her educational life began firstly as a teacher and then as a consultant, specialising in creating programs for students who did not 'fit into the system'. Thirty of her educational books have been published by Longman, Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press.



KIANA CHARLTON

Kiana Charlton is a Goenpul/Yuggera Goori from Brisbane and North Stradbroke Island. She works as a High School Teacher teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and holds a Masters of Indigenous Education. Kiana is very passionate about embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander world views within students' learning experiences.



SOPHIE CHURCH

Sophie Church is a prize-winning historian, editor and author. Her work encompasses educational, biography and architectural research and writing. She has been a teacher and is an accredited member of the Professional Historians Association. Her focus is on helping people and institutions to tell their stories in meaningful and inspirational ways.

Tertiary institutions, such as **QUT**, were actively involved in the development of these resources which have embedded links to the **National Education Curriculum**, i.e. hundreds of links are documented.

More and more schools are following a **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)**, so these resources provide valuable support to each school's RAP.

A sample from teacher's manual of one activity

GOONDEEN | UNDERSTANDING AUSTRALIA

Task: RESEARCH ACTIVITY

National Curriculum Link: ACHCK092 Pg. 76

Year Focus: 10

GOONDEEN REQUIRED CHAPTER READING: AUSTRALIA IS WHOSE? (PG. 14)

LESSON FOCUS: AN ENQUIRY INTO THE MABO DECISION

TASK DESCRIPTION

Write a summary on the implications of the Mabo decision from 1992. Students will explore the current issues that Indigenous people face in relation to the Mabo Decision.

Visit & Read: Land Rights and the Legacy of Mabo Day
<https://othersociologists.com/2020/06/04/land-rights-and-the-legacy-of-mabo-day/>

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

- What is the Native Title?
- What is the current sociological impact from the Mabo Decision?
- At the time, who objected to the Mabo decision and why?
- What is the difference between Native Title and Land Ownership?
- Why was the Mabo decision so important for Aboriginal people?
- What is the spiritual connection for Aboriginal people to the land and sea and why is it so important?
- Why is it important for Indigenous people to have ownership over their land?
- As Uncle Albert mentioned in Goondeen "One man's struggles stand out above all others in the recent past because his actions have changed the law of Australia". How is this reflective in the Mabo Case?
- Identify what were the concessions of the Mabo Decisions?
- What parts of the Mabo Decision remain unresolved?

PRESENT:

Create a PowerPoint to showcase your answers. Present to your peers and have a discussion comparing your new findings. It is really important we understand and reflect on the Mabo decision.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LEARNING:

https://australianstogether.org.au/discover/australian-history/mabo-native-title/gcid=C0KCKQw99n8BR02ARIsA4mgPmLbHyGkb4oVUPwzSsxVSAgi3k9ZLUcs6e6Aboc0V7Zn8HufPzo0h4Amn8EAW_wcb

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/mabo-decision>

<https://education.abc.net.au/home#/media/2571493/gail-mabo-and-native-title>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqaURFvLM88>

YEAR 10

6

Professional Development

Schools have had, or have booked, Professional Development (PD) sessions for their staff. These PD sessions are excellent opportunities to help deepen understanding of First Nations' peoples, histories and cultures. Goondeen PD sessions are tailored to guiding and supporting schools on a journey to true healing and reconciliation, within the school, classroom and community environment. We invite you to take your seat in taking the next steps in building a brighter future.

[MAKE A BOOKING](#)

Testimonials

Read what some teachers are saying about Goondeen:

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

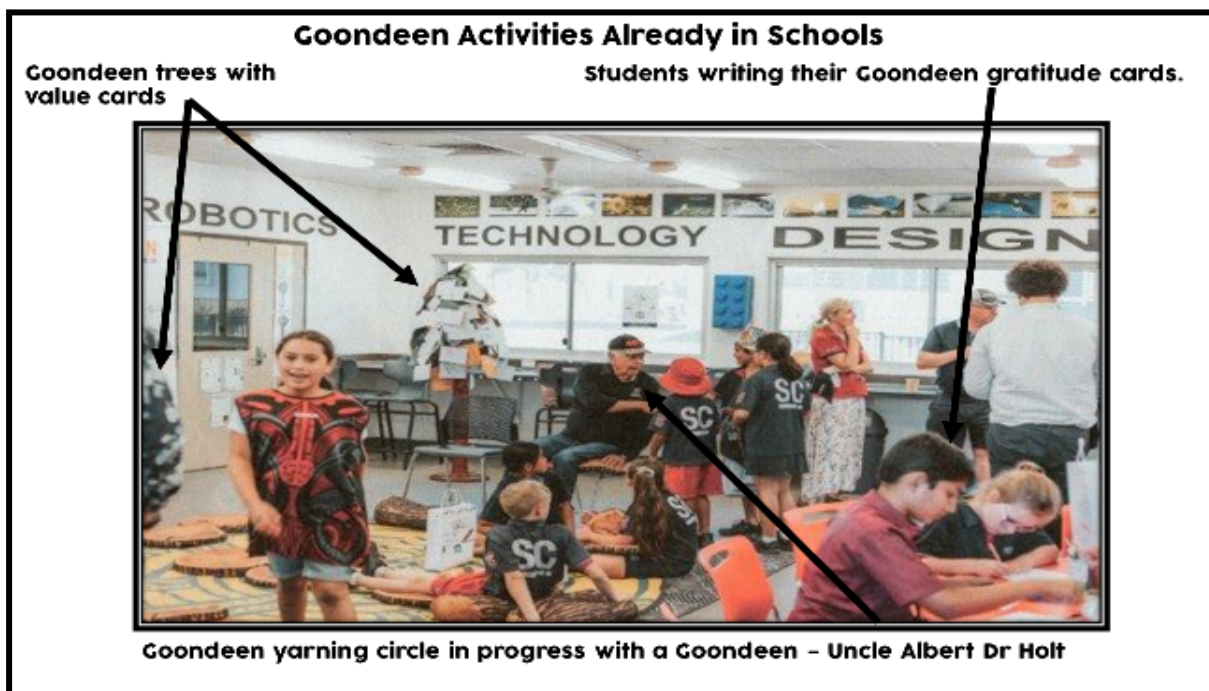
"...When I found out what Goondeen meant, I was amazed that one word could explain such a deep, meaningful, sensitive and absolutely important message to me as a person and a teacher..."

"...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 its 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..."

“...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...”

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.



If you need any clarification, please contact me.
M: 0418 196 707
E: info@goondeen.com.au
Best wishes for 2024 - I look forward to working with you,

Bill Synnot
Co-Founder, Goondeen Institute



www.goondeen.com.au

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 "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; 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.