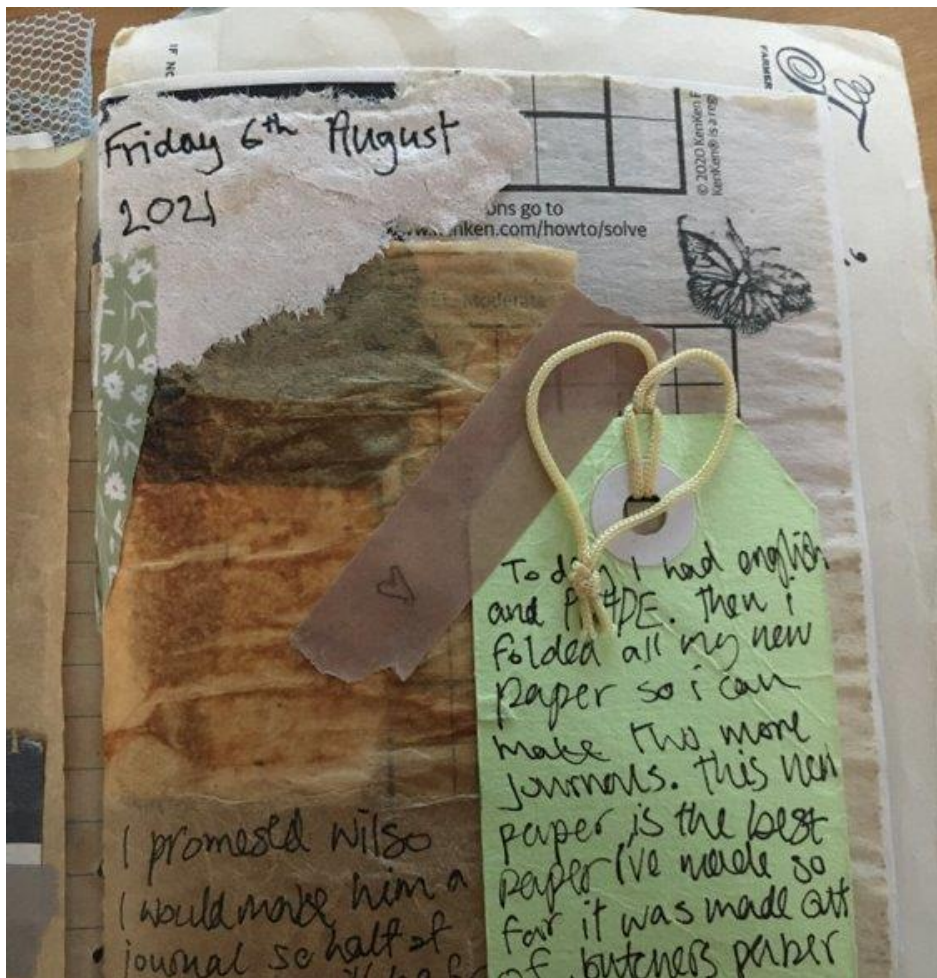




2021 Year 10 Individual Projects Necessary Traditions



"Making what we need from what is around us".

In this individual project, students make or mend, using a traditional skill. Where possible, they draw their resources from what is around them (materials and knowledge). In the process they find out for themselves, the resourcefulness of working sustainably, the value of creative expression and self-efficacy, the value of connecting with others. They also explore the connection between personal wellbeing and sense of purpose, and planetary health.

Kasper – Building an Earth Oven

Out of tragedy and calamity comes creativity. Innovation in the arts and the way we think is almost intrinsically tied to a need to push against suffering and the very movement of revitalising necessary traditions was forged in the aftermath of the Christchurch Earthquake. In the present-day, we battle with fire, flood and pestilence, separation, segmentation and division. It is with all this that we can see on the horizon a renaissance of creativity and craft. A re-remembering of what we are capable of.



Angela – Candle Making



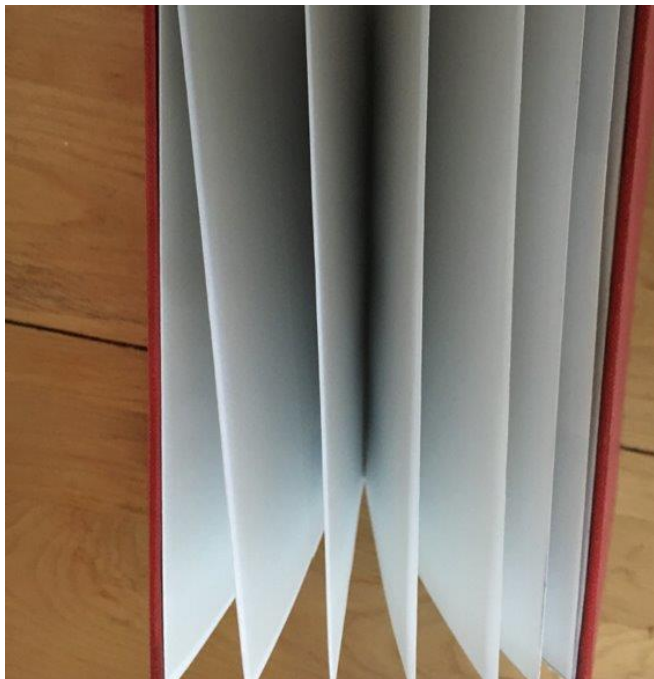
At first, candle making was hard, but I figured it out and had fun doing it. I also did other things like glass cutting which included tying acetone-soaked twine around a glass bottle and lighting it on fire. Not only did I make candles, but I got to gift them. The process of this creative activity definitely helped my mental health during lockdown. It has taught me patience, and to be more creative.



So, I made a new mould and deckle and it worked much better and I wasted less. My cat also approved of the new mould and deckle and decided she would help me.

I didn't just make paper. I also bound books. I made note books out of my handmade paper and other paper I had collected over the years. I learned different stitches such as kettle binding, French links and saddle. For the book on the left here I decided not to add a spine so you can still see the kettle stitch. And for this one on the right, it is an accordion journal I made. I like this one because you can use it in book form or in one long sheet of paper.

I also started journaling. It wasn't really about the writing, it was more about using up anything that would otherwise be disposed of – such as tea bags, clothing tags, wrapping paper, fruit stickers and much more.



Indi – Crocheting a Mood Blanket



Through the year I have been crocheting a “mood blanket”. I chose 8 common emotions or feelings and assigned them each a colour; whatever emotion or feeling was dominant through that day, would then be the colour of the new chain on my blanket. My blanket is an exact representation of how I've felt each day: processing lockdown and online learning, the world changing around me, the disconnection I felt to my family, friends, and community, and then coming out of lockdown into a new sterile world.

I wanted my blanket and project to be beautiful and appealing to the eye, but most importantly I wanted it to feel comforting and wanted its imperfections to be visible; as this project is about learning and growth and I wanted evidence of that incorporated into my blanket

To me, a necessary tradition is a practice that grounds you and connects you to others. Crochet made me be still and present. It grounded and focused me and gave me the ability to reflect. It is fundamental for human beings to be creative. Creativity allows us to freely express ourselves and lets us take back the power of our individuality. Actively being creative allowed me to express myself and take care of myself in a way I had almost forgotten

Chantae – Weaving Culture and Connection

Hi, my name is Chantae, I'm a Wiradjuri woman. My necessary tradition is about weaving and connecting with others and finding a way to my culture.

My idea for my project was about connecting with family and friends through making string and weaving.



My project

Coming together!

Issi – Paper Making and Book Binding



I love being creative. Growing up in a Steiner school I have been very lucky in learning how to knit, crochet, draw, paint and so much more. Being able to create things with your hands is a wonderful gift I would not give up for the world. For my necessary Tradition project, I decided to focus on paper making, book making and a lot of other things in-between. Paper making is one of the most ancient crafts, it dates all the way back to ancient Egypt.

When I started I really wanted to try and make paper out of natural materials. I researched making it out of stringy bark and other native plants in the mountains but to make the fibres stick together I would have had to use toxic chemicals and I wanted to keep my paper as natural as possible. So instead, I started to collect all the bits and bobs of paper floating around my house like butcher's paper and random advertisements from our letter box. I had experimented with making paper before as I had found a paper making kit at the op-shop a couple years ago, but I had never got the type of paper I wanted. I got straight into making paper and experimenting but after a couple of tries none of my paper was up to the standard I wanted.

Vin



I see learning the skill of food cultivation as a necessary thing now. I used to just see it as more a waste of time than anything else, and now I know how much I was wrong.



As – Ceramics



Ceramics is for me, learned patience and motivation, and a desire to create and connect. Now, ceramics is something that has always caught my eye. I fell in love with the idea of creating something functioning out of a kind of earth that is so often disregarded. However, I always thought about the end product, rather than the process and the extent of the process. I was so convinced I'd sit down and create something incredible on my first go. But as this project went on, I began to appreciate the imperfection that filtered its way through my work and how that changed my product.

For so long I struggled on what necessary tradition means to me. Lynn talked about the transitions in my life like going to so many high schools, being non-binary and how each of these would reflect in my work and give it meaning. But if I'm being honest I just wanted to learn and to create. There's no deep meaning. I just wanted to try to connect myself back to art and the community tied to it.

How we treat the Earth and the resources we create with is mirrored in our treatment of our fellow person. This is why community can come together over both tragedy and creativity. This concept of things that can bring community together has been the foundation of my project on a literal and philosophical level. Warmth and food is something that I know for a fact can bring people together. Human history and the history of community is centred around these places of warmth. This is why I decided to design and build an Earth Oven.

So I thank Amy, Lynn and Nev. You made it possible for me to reach into this craft community once more and create something that although isn't finished and most certainly isn't perfect, is something that I am proud to say I created.



Dom – After the Fires



Remember the 2019/2020 bushfires? A catastrophic event throughout the Blue Mountains and beyond. When I recently moved to Clarence, the damage from the fires, throughout the bush, was still prominent. So much was lost – yet how can we make something out of it? I think the key thing I learnt from this project was seeing the massive destruction and finding a way to generate a new project out of this.

There were a few hitches, but I ended up creating small tables from burnt forest.

Leo – Primitive Tool and Shelter Making



Lockdown gave me the perfect opportunity to do what I love, spending time in the bush and exploring as a maker, how ancestors lived on the land.

