Reconciliation Week

Last Thursday was National "Sorry Day" and Friday began "Reconciliation Week," both significant milestones in the continued development and understanding of the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. These events have had strong support from the Catholic Church as a way to mend the often fractious relationship between the ancient and newer peoples of this land. Our Pastoral Class morning prayers have been focused on this topic and I share the following links that have some terrific resources that families might find interesting.

Explore the NRW 2016 theme 'Our History, Our Story, Our Future' by watching this or visiting www.reconciliation.org.au

At all of our formal school gatherings we acknowledge the traditional owners of the land that the College has grown from and this is done in a number of different formats. The following reflection attempts to encapsulate something of the understanding that "Country" means to Indigenous Australians in a way that those of different cultures might find meaning in.

Country
For Aboriginal people Country is a place that gives and receives life.
Not just imagined or represented, it is lived in and lived with.
Aboriginal people talk about Country in the same way that you would talk about a person:

Aboriginal people speak to Country,
sing to Country,
visit Country,
worry about Country,

feel sorry for Country, and long for Country.
Aboriginal People say that Country knows, hears, smells, takes notice, takes care, and is sorry or happy.
Country is a living entity with a yesterday, today and tomorrow, with a consciousness, and a will toward life.
Because of this richness, Country is home, and peace; nourishment for body, mind, and spirit.

Acknowledgement; SCS, Southern Region

James Corcoran
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