

ronnberg

copy cat from Ballarat —and other traditions of childhood

A biennial award for Victorian primary school students in years 3, 4, 5 & 6.

THE PROGRAM

The **Maxine Ronnberg Folklife Program** is a biennial award for Victorian primary school students in years 3, 4, 5 & 6. It has been designed to deliver the learning outcomes in the **Key Learning Areas of English, Studies of Society and the Environment, and the Arts**. It has been designed by education and childhood specialists and folklorists for use in the classroom.

Students are invited to research a particular theme related to Australian society, and record and document their findings in an illustrated book.

This year's theme is **Traditions of Childhood**.

WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR ENTRY?

Please read carefully as entries not fulfilling these requirements cannot be judged:

- Schools may submit as many entries as they wish.
- Each entry must be the collaborative work of a group of 3-6 students.
- Each student may only contribute to one group.
- Each entry must be in the form of an illustrated book.
- Each book must be between A4 and A2 size, with up to 14 single-sided pages.
- Each book must include:
 - a **cover**, giving the project title
 - a **table of contents**
 - a **description of methodology**, i.e. how the project was carried out
 - a **list of research** undertaken for the project, including a bibliography, names of people interviewed and lists of other resources and sources
 - a **paragraph each** from participating students, stating what they think they learned during the project. These statements will not be judged and are for evaluation purposes only.

- Books should not be bound, as this makes it difficult to display or exhibit them.

This is a project about today's living culture. Through their participation in the Maxine Ronnberg Folklife Program, students will learn to value individuals for their experience, values and beliefs and what these can teach us about our society.

ENTRIES CLOSE 13 September, 2002

- **Entries can be delivered or posted**
For personal or courier deliveries, please ring the Victorian Folklife Association to arrange a suitable time.
Victorian Folklife Association
@ Horticultural Hall
31-33 Victoria Street Carlton 3053
Telephone 9639 1144
- **POSTAL ADDRESS**
PO Box 1765 Collingwood VIC 3066
- An acknowledgment that the entry has been received will be forwarded to the teacher within three weeks of its arrival at the VFA.
- Each entry will be registered and assigned an identification number which makes no reference to its school of origin or the participants.
- Each entry must include an appropriately stamped, self-addressed envelope for us to return the book at the end. The Victorian Folklife Association will make every effort to ensure that any publicity generated from these entries, about them or produced using them, will acknowledge the students who created the book and their school. After judging has been completed, entries not claimed or retrieved become the property of the Association. The Association may retain award-winning entries for promotional and educational purposes for 12 months after the announcement of the winners.

Winners will be notified through their schools in the first fortnight of term 4.

JUDGING OF ENTRIES

- The illustrated books are judged on the basis of presentation, research methods and content. Awards are made to the schools whose students have produced the best books.
- There will be a panel of three judges: a teacher, a folklorist and a representative from a cultural institution. The judges' decision is final.
- Judges will award according to the following criteria:
 - 25% presentation
 - 25% research methods
 - 50% content, and the understanding of the chosen traditions demonstrated through the project.
- Awards will be given in six categories:
 1. Year 3
 2. Year 4
 3. Combined Years 3 & 4
 4. Year 5
 5. Year 6
 6. Combined Years 5 & 6

PRIZES

The prizes for each category focus on appropriate resources for the school, as well as prizes for individual students who have created the winning entries. Each participating student will receive a commemorative certificate. Each participating school will receive a commemorative certificate.

EXHIBITION

We will organise an exhibition of the books created for the Program. More details later! Because the books are about local communities, your school might like to organise a local exhibition of the books your students have made.

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STARTING THE PROJECT – Some thoughts and ideas

What are Traditions of Childhood? Traditions of childhood are the things that were part of our own childhood, that are still part of children's lives today. They might be:

- **songs** - songs sung in the car on family trips, songs for special occasions (e.g. different versions of 'Happy Birthday'), parodies of popular hit tunes or advertisements, nursery songs, celebration songs
- **stories** - favourite bedtime stories, stories told at special times of the year, stories that parents tell to their children, scary stories
- **celebrations** - birthdays, name days, holidays, festivals, family visits, special times of the year, growing up - first haircut, losing baby teeth, walking, etc.
- **rhymes and sayings** - playground rhymes and chants, nursery rhymes, rhymes for fun, good-luck rhymes, disgusting rhymes, rhymes and sayings for special occasions, favourite family sayings, 'comebacks' (a clever response when someone insults you), nicknames, secret languages and signals (e.g. talking in 'Pig Latin', crossing fingers and saying 'Barley' for time out in a game)
- **playground games** like Marbles, Tiggy, Hide-and-Seek, Elastics, Cops & Robbers, Giant's Treasure, Poison Ball, Four Square, building cubby houses, let's-pretend games, games from different countries
- **hobbies and pastimes** - riding bikes, climbing trees, playing board games, reading, playing electronic games, dressing-up, giving concerts, keeping pets, having sleep-overs, playing pencil-and-paper games, prediction games (finding out who you will marry, how many babies, etc., e.g. counting 'Tinker Tailor, Soldier Sailor' with cherry pips)
- **collecting things** - stamps, coins, marbles, stickers, rubbers, insects, swap cards, footy cards, dolls, sporting memorabilia, autographs, favourite 'character' items, souvenirs

There are many more traditions of childhood for you to discover with your students!

To help with the research, you and your students might like to think about questions like:

- What are some of the celebrations or day-to-day happenings in the students' lives which are part of family, school or community traditions?
- Do these traditions differ from person to person, place to place, year to year?
- How and why have they come to be?
- What do the children think about these traditions?
- What are some of the play traditions of the children in your school, in their families, in their neighbourhoods and communities?
- What kinds of games do the children play in their free time? What rhymes do they know? Have their games and rhymes changed over time?
- What do they collect? Are children collecting the same things as previous generations?
- Are there special places in the playground where the same game is always played? For how long has it been played there? Has it become a playground tradition for children at your school, and are there others?

Where will the information come from?

There are many useful sources of information - books, information sheets, printed and electronic media, but the most important of all is **PEOPLE** - the class itself; other children; parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins; residents of the neighbourhood. Remember, **this is a project about today's living culture**, not a history project, although comparisons with the past can be useful to show changes or consistency over time.

What techniques might be used for the research?

- Interviews - could be recorded on a tape recorder or a video
- Observations (e.g. family celebrations)
- Written descriptions (e.g. how to play a game)
- Photography
- Drawings
- Using the library and local history archives (old photographs can often be copied)
- Documentation and inventories (e.g. finding out all the games played in a particular part of the playground, or making a list of all the things collected by a group of people, and then finding out more about them)



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATED BOOK

The illustrated book could be made of fabric, paper or cardboard. Each book will probably be very different, and express the ideas, imagination and creativity of the members of each group. One might be made up of descriptions and photographs, or it might include a play, or extracts from interviews, or an audio tape of rhymes or songs, or a combination of these. It might contain collages, drawings, diagrams, sections which move, paper shapes, or other original artwork.

See how inspired and inventive the children can be - as long as it tells us what they found out about childhood traditions. Remember, the content and what it tells us about what the students have discovered is at least as important as the presentation.

BE CREATIVE WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK. PLEASE DO NOT BIND THE BOOKS, OR USE PLASTIC PRESENTATION FOLDERS (ALTHOUGH OF COURSE WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PROTECT THE WORK VERY CAREFULLY WHEN YOU ARE SENDING IT TO US).

The Victorian Folklife Association gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund in making this project possible in 2002.

The Maxine Ronnberg Folklife Program is an initiative of the Victorian Folklife Association.



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WHO WAS MAXINE RONNBERG?

Maxine Ronnberg was a member of the Folklore Council of Australia from its earliest days and for many years, served as the secretary, archivist, newsletter editor and president of the Council. Her musical training and personality combined to make her the heart of the organisation.

Folk music was a lifetime love of Maxine's, and her knowledge of both tunes and words was encyclopaedic. In the 1960s Maxine participated in field work, collecting folk music from country areas.

After Maxine's death in 1990, the Folklore Council committee decided to establish a memorial. When the Council disbanded in 1995, the Victorian Folklife Association agreed to hold in trust funds to be used for the promotion of folklore by stimulating young people's interest in the subject. This has become the Maxine Ronnberg Folklife Program.

entry forms

SCHOOL

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

FACSIMILE

EMAIL

CONTACT TEACHER

HOW MANY GROUPS WILL BE ENTERING FROM YOUR SCHOOL?

If you would like to know more, or if you would like an entry form, please contact:

Gordon Dowell of the
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Victorian Folklife Association Inc.
PO Box 1765 Collingwood VIC 3066
AUSTRALIA
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