

DISRUPT PERSIST INVENT

AUSTRALIANS IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD

LEARNING RESOURCE

MIDDLE YEARS STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEETS

NAA

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA



Australian Government

National Archives of Australia

National Collecting Institutions
Touring and Outreach Program

Visions of Australia

This resource is supported by Visions of Australia and the
National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program.

DISRUPT

**Disrupt – def. interrupt
(an event, activity, or process)
by causing a disturbance
or problem.**

Locate the following records in the
exhibition space. After viewing the
records and reading the label, complete
the activities with your group.





SAVE THE DAINTREE – 'TO SENATOR DON CHIPP'

'Postcard bombardment' occurs when a large number of people send the same postcard to one person – usually a politician – to call for action on an issue.



DISCUSS These postcards were sent in the 1980s, before social media or the widespread use of email. Do you think postcard bombardment could still be an effective method of protest today? Why or why not?

DESIGN the front of your own protest postcard that could be used as part of a bombardment campaign. You can choose any issue that is important to you.



MERLE THORNTON

READ

Read the exhibition label.

Summarise what the women in the photograph are doing and why.

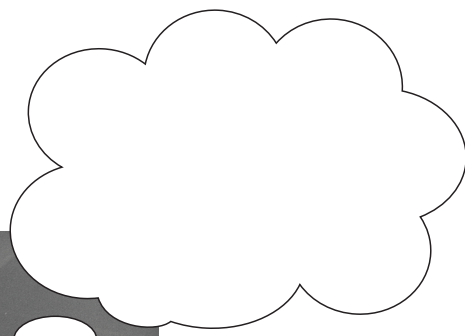
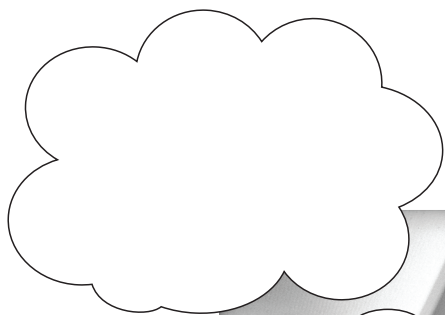


DISCUSS

how Merle and Rosalie might have felt when this photograph was taken - and how the men might have reacted to their presence.

WRITE

your ideas in the thought bubbles below.





SMOOTHING THE PATHWAY

WATCH the video.

LIST 3 sources of motivation for Elly Desmarchelier.

1

2

3

DISCUSS what Elly might mean when she says 'hard things are hard'.

WRITE a quote or saying that guides you in your life below.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

LOOK at the poster. Australians were asked to give their ideas about a range of relationship topics as part of the 1974 Royal Commission into Human Relationships.

From the list of topics on the poster, circle those that you think would have been difficult topics of conversation at the time. Put a star next to the topics that you think are still difficult topics of conversation today.



FAMILY LIFE

PARENTHOOD

CHILD CARE

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

SEX EDUCATION

FAMILY PLANNING

DISCRIMINATION

DISCUSS the topics you put a star next to with your group. In what ways are these still difficult topics of conversation today?



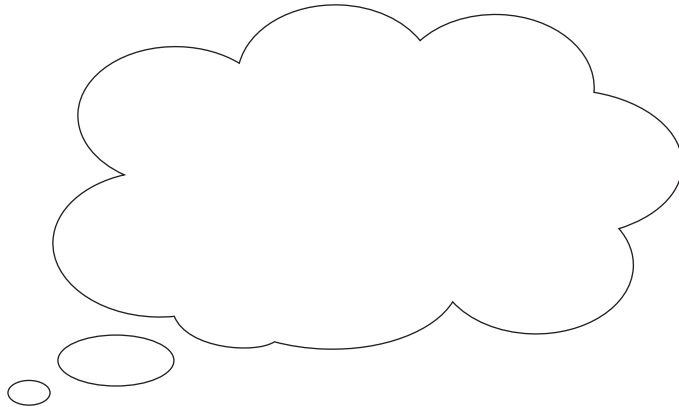
ELIZABETH REID - 'DEAR MS REID'

LIST the prizes offered to boys and girls in the 1973 Russell yoyo contest.



READ the reply letter from Elizabeth Reid. **DISCUSS** whether or not you would have been happy with this response.

BRAINSTORM other ways that Alison and her peers could have protested the unfair prizes for boys and girls.



RANK how strongly you agree or disagree with the statements below, then **DISCUSS** your answers with your group.

Contests don't need 'boys' and 'girls' divisions

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree



Women's sport and men's sport is equal today

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree



There is gender equality at my school

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree





INVENTING WI-FI



LOOK at the machine in the case (don't look at the label yet) - what do you think it is?

DISCUSS some ideas as to why it might be important.

Now **READ** the label for the machine - what is the machine? Were any of your guesses close? How is this machine different to what you know of current wi-fi technology?

WATCH the video clip '**People didn't believe it was possible**'. In the video, Dr. Terry says 'people really didn't believe that what we were doing was possible.' **LIST** 3 reasons he gave for why people thought it was impossible.

1

2

3

Wi-fi technology has changed the world - imagine what else could be achieved using wi-fi technology. **DRAW** your idea in the space below.



ARCHIVAL RECORDS ARE SO POWERFUL

WATCH the video.

DISCUSS what motivates Phyllis Williams. Phyllis – who is Gummulkbun on her father’s side and Larrakia Kulumbirrigin on her mother’s side – explains why she feels connected to the land that is her home.



DRAW the place that is home to you below.

LIST three things that you value about your home.

1

2

3

NEVILLE BONNER

LOOK at this letter that was written about Neville Bonner. How many different people appear to have written on it?

READ the exhibition label to find out what they were writing about.

DISCUSS the following: The government officials writing the letter decided that Neville Bonner should be treated as 'any other man.' What do you think they meant by this?

DISCUSS how you believe diversity should be responded to. Is it important to always treat everyone the same, regardless of difference? Are there occasions where it is fair to treat people differently? After his first speech in Parliament Neville Bonner threw a boomerang in the Senate rose gardens in front of the media. Why do you think he did this?

WRITE or **DRAW** what you would do after giving your first speech in Parliament.



A large, empty rounded rectangular box provided for the student to write or draw their response to the prompt.



TRADE UNIONS - ARTHUR BLAKELEY'S UNION TICKETS

LOOK at Arthur Blakeley's scrapbook.
What are three things you notice about it?



1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

READ the exhibition label to learn more about what you see in the scrapbook.

DISCUSS why Arthur Blakeley might have chosen to keep this scrapbook, and what the items inside might have meant to him.

SHARE with the group what you collect or keep and why. If you don't hold onto anything, why is that?

PACIFIC ISLANDERS' PETITION

DISCUSS as a group what you know about petitions.

LOOK closely at the record – what clues tell you that this piece of paper is a petition?

READ the exhibition label. Who created this petition, and what were they asking for?

The Pacific Islanders Association represented people who came from over 80 different islands. In **'Records are so powerful'** – a video you can watch in this exhibition – Phyllis Williams points out that 'everyone comes from somewhere.' **SHARE** where you come from with the group. Are 'home' and 'where you come from' the same place for you? Is it possible for more than one place to be home?

JOHN HOWARD AND GUN CONTROL

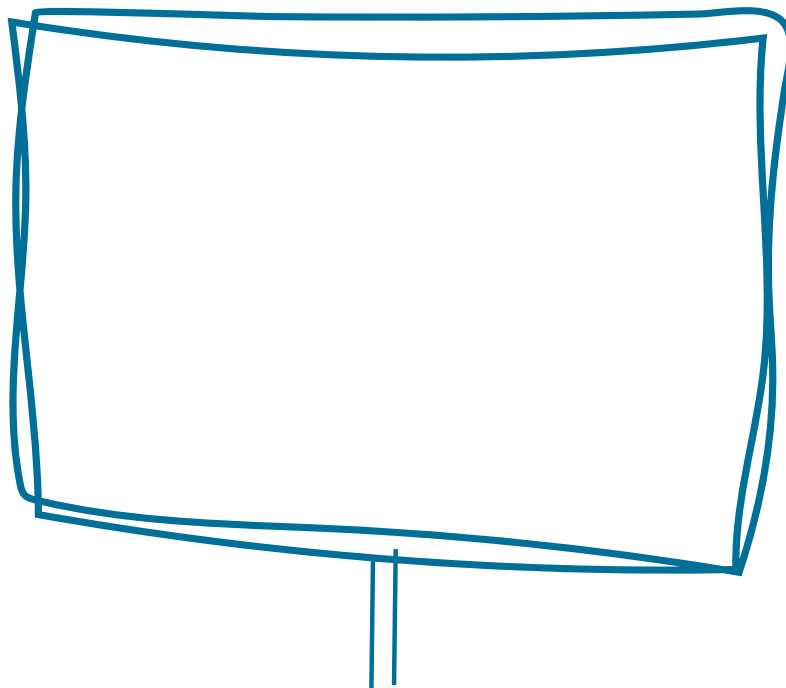
LOOK Look at the photo of John Howard addressing a pro-gun rally in 1996 about his plan for strict new gun laws. Notice that he is wearing a bullet-proof vest.

DISCUSS why he might have worn this to the rally. Why do you think this photo has become a famous image today?

READ the letters on display in the case. How do these people feel about the proposed anti-gun laws?

The USA does not have strict gun laws like Australia. Every year, US school students protest gun violence as part of a movement called 'March for Our Lives.' Australian students often show solidarity (support) for US young people by holding March for Our Lives events in Australian towns and cities.

If you attended a March for Our Lives event, what would your placard look like? **DRAW** it below.



PERSIST

The stories you've just explored relate to the theme 'persist'.

Social change is often slow and hard-won.

For changemakers, being persistent can mean -

Not giving up

Banding together with others

Facing and overcoming obstacles

Confronting those who disagree with you

Believing in the power of your cause and the change you want to make

DISCUSS how each of these stories connects to the theme of 'persist'.

RECORD any wonderings you still have about any of the stories you looked at.



WILLIAM YANG

NOTICE the quote from Asian-Australian writer Benjamin Law – “William Yang reminds me that I exist.”

DRAW a picture of someone who makes you feel seen.



READ the extract of William Yang’s monologue, titled ‘**Sadness**’. Sadness is one of many emotions contained in this powerful work. What other emotions did you detect in the extract from the monologue? **CIRCLE** examples from the list below and discuss why you chose them.

PRIDE

HAPPINESS

NOSTALGIA

BELONGING

LONGING

CONFUSION

CONNECTION

LOVE

OTHER: _____

THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION – CWA 'CALENDAR OF PUDDINGS'

LOOK at each recipe displayed on the record.

RANK the yumminess of three recipes from 'disgusting' to 'delicious'.

Disgusting Delicious

1

Disgusting Delicious

2

Disgusting Delicious

3

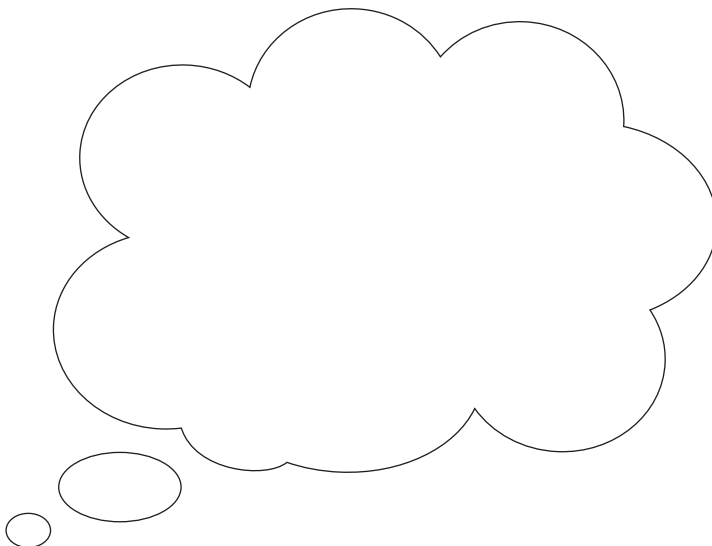


IMAGINE that your class is going to make a recipe book like this one. What special recipe from your family would you contribute?

This calendar of puddings was created by the CWA in 1931 to raise funds for the community.

DISCUSS whether you think a recipe book is still a good idea for a fundraiser today.

BRAINSTORM other methods community groups can use to raise money today.



COMMUNITY IS EVERYTHING

WATCH the video.

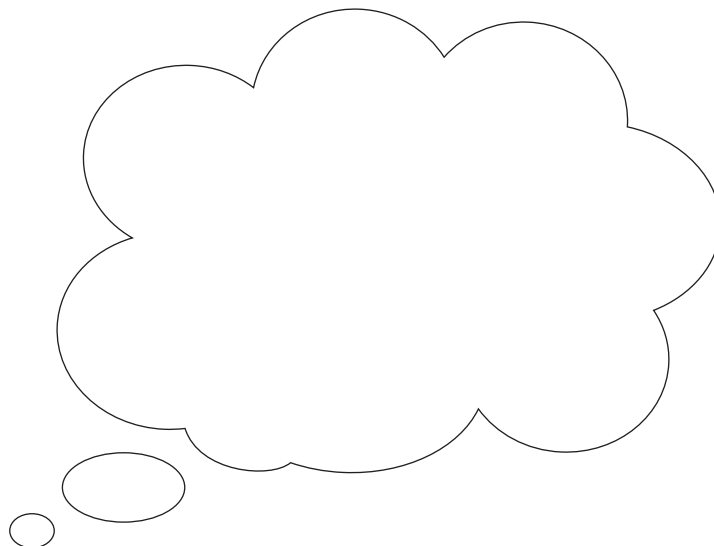
DISCUSS what motivates members of the CWA.
Building the fence was a small change that made a big difference to the community.

DRAW something new that you think needs to be built in your community.



SHARE with your group how your idea would benefit the community.

BRAINSTORM actions you and your community could take to make your group's ideas a reality.



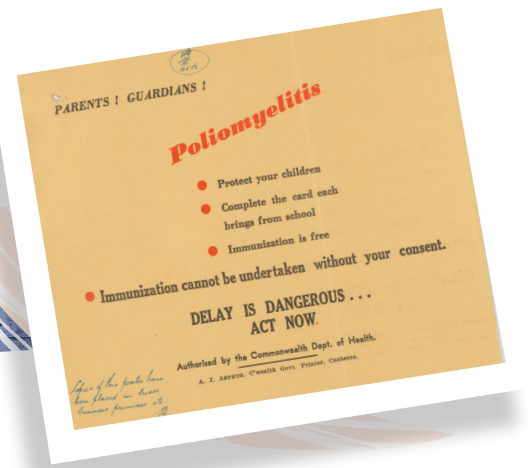
LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS – ‘DELAY IS DANGEROUS...ACT NOW’

LOOK at the poster advertising the Polio vaccine.

RATE how effective you think the poster is at advertising the benefits of the polio vaccine.

Not
Effective

Very
Effective



DISCUSS why you gave the poster this rating. What works and what could be improved?

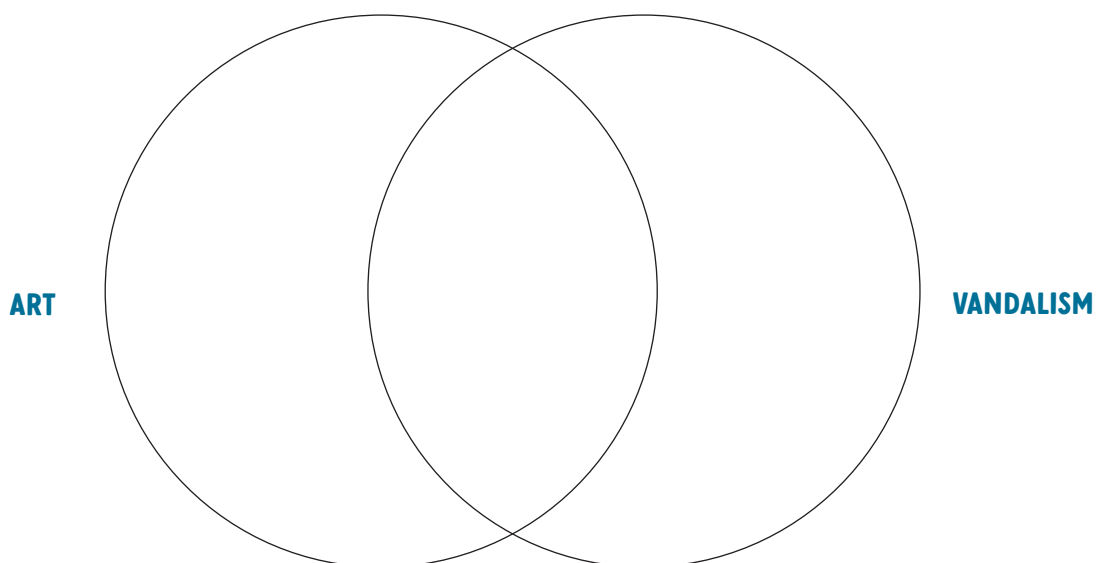
DESIGN a new poster below that the government could use to advertise modern public health programs.

RANDOM ACTS OF CROCHET KINDNESS

WATCH the video.

DISCUSS what motivates Eloise Murphy. Many would define yarn-bombing as art, while others might call it vandalism. What do you think it is?

IDENTIFY the features of ART and VANDALISM in the Venn diagram below.



Eloise Murphy quoted Malcolm Turnbull on love hearts and attached them to the bike. These quotes were about Turnbull's love for his wife. **WRITE** your own definition of love in the heart below.

