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Focus on Aboriginal culture at childcare

By Denny Barrett

Preschool children were recently treated to a taste of Aboriginal culture as part of Nahe Ywek celebrations.

Ryan Road Childcare and Swim School, Parkville, introduced its children to the Aboriginal tradition of a smoking ceremony as Tuesday to mark the week of Indigenous celebrations.

While just two of its students are Indigenous, Ryan Road Childcare and Swim School director Lisa Rosenthal said the centre felt it was important to recognise their history and culture.

"It was about celebra-

ing something special to them," Ms Rosenthal said.

The NAIDOC event was a sign of change at Ryan Road Childcare and Swim School, according to Ms Rosenthal, and was just a sign of togetherness.

The centre is investigating the possibility of a monthly smoking ceremony.

"We're looking forward to including Aboriginal and other cultures into our daily practices," Ms Rosenthal said.

"We really want the centre to be an inclusive place for everyone."

She said parents of the children were supportive of its plans to explore other cultural practices.



Rosenthal with Chairperson of NAIDOC Victoria Lilla Thayer during the smoking ceremony. (1/17/17)



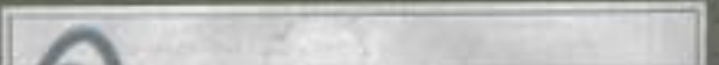
Maxwell joins in on the celebrations. (1/17/17) Pictures: STEWART CHAMBERS



Lilla waves the Aboriginal flag. (1/17/17)



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