



Aboriginality

The plight of the Aboriginal people, the indigenous people of Australia, is a sad one indeed. From the first landing of white settlers at Sydney Harbour in 1788, their history has been a constant stream of violence, illness, and injustice. Australia did not give Aboriginals the right to vote until 1966. Until then, they had actually been officially classified among the flora and fauna! And tragedies such as the Myall Creek massacre and the stolen generations serve only to highlight the injustices they have faced over the past 200 years.

What has this to do with a Coptic College?

As Coptic Australians, we above all other groups should understand and sympathise with the plight of the Aboriginal people. Copts are the indigenous people of Egypt who had their land invaded and became as second class citizens in their own country. Copts too have suffered injustice, persecution and even massacres at the hands of the invaders. And Copts, like Australian Aboriginals, have struggled to cling to their ancient heritage, culture and language in the midst of a society that often seems not to care.

Teaching our Australian Coptic children about Aboriginal issues is an important part of teaching them what true Christian compassion and justice mean. The College includes Aboriginal material in its Pastoral Care Programme and Coptic Orthodox Studies (religion) curriculum. We aim to produce students who are socially aware and involved in the big issues that our country and our Church face in these modern times.



Fr Shenouda holds up an Aboriginal flag with Greame Mundine during the latter's visit to St Mark's College in 2008

Check out the great photo galleries of recent College events at our website!