



Michael Jarrett telling rapt Orama preschoolers a Gumbaynggir story.

Photo submitted

Language fun for bridging cultures

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BRIDGES are not only built over rivers in the Thora Valley.

At Orama Pre-School students from as young as two-years-old have been having fun learning the local Gumbaynggir language with language teacher, Michael Jarrett, from the Murrumbidgee Aboriginal Language and Cultural Co-operative.

Preschool director, Tracie Wallace, said the children had been totally engaged by the program, which 'sadly' only ran for four weeks.

"Michael played music and games and told stories using Gumbaynggir and the kids loved it," Ms Wallace said.

"I wondered if they would be able to keep their concentration up, but they were right there the whole time. Michael befriended the children and for many of them, it was the first time they had met an indigenous person. It's been a wonderful introduction to indigenous people and their culture."

Ms Wallace said the program was being reinforced daily at the pre-school in 'circle time'.

"We are using the words in our songs and games.

"The children have retained loads of the information because they enjoyed it so much."