



OPENING: Belair Public School captains Amy and Elijah after revealing the Kawumaliko Malang garden sign.

Garden of respect

By **CHRISTAL BRAND**

STUDENTS and staff from Belair Public School celebrated a momentous occasion on Friday.

After a lot of hard work the school held an official opening ceremony for their reconciliation garden.

Belair's principal Warrick Beard told *The Star* students had decided on calling the garden Kawumaliko Malang, which means "Assemble Together" in Awabakal.

In a demonstration of the school's interest in culture, members of the choir sang half of the Australian national anthem in

Awabakal and the rest in English.

The ceremony and the garden demonstrated the school's commitment to reconciliation with the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of Australia.

Year four student Grace said: "The garden is a place for all to come together to learn and share."

Her co-presenter Kiarli, year four, said: "The garden is at the front of the school, it welcomes everyone in."

Grace and Kiarli were involved with the creation of the garden and have taken special interest in it. "Having the garden here

shows some respect to the Aboriginal people, it has a personal meaning to me," Grace said.

Mr Beard said Kiarli took an active part in looking after the plants.

"We had to make sure there was soil for the garden, worm pee for the plants and mulch on top of everything. Some of the plants have grown a lot since they were planted," Kiarli said.

School captains Amy and Elijah and representatives Bodan, year 6, and Imogen, year four, revealed the garden's sign to complete the opening ceremony.

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