

SUNBURY

Film tips to help explore identity

INDIGENOUS playwright, musician and activist Richard Frankland visited Sunbury last week in a bid to identify students to further the indigenous voice in Australian society.

Mr Frankland, director of Melbourne University's Wilin Centre for indigenous Arts and Cultural Development, was part of a visit called Short and Deadly.

Sunbury became the third community to engage with the workshops which teach indigenous youth how to make short films and to explore their identity.

Mr Frankland said the art of telling stories offered the opportunity to provide healing and growth.

"We've taken this to communities where there has been big challenges as from great tragedies comes great art," he said.

Mr Frankland said the one-week film making project set in motion ideas and processes which supported the search for culture and resisting the dominance and suppression of indigenous identity.

"Every society needs stories – without stories we are powerless and it's often the stories of the dominant that overwhelm the stories that bind as a community.

"But we have an indomitable spirit built on 2000 generations of grandmothers and grandfathers."

The Short and Deadly Workshops are set to return to Sunbury later this year and Mr Frankland said he was working with the Sunbury Community Health Centre on setting up a screening of films to come out of the process.

Mr Frankland said he wanted 100 indigenous students to enrol in Melbourne University courses by the end of 2018 including Sunbury and surrounds.