Society and environment expands learners’ knowledge and understandings of their own and other societies, of local and global environments, and of the interdependence between people, their society and their environment.

The Learning Area of society and environment is organised around four strands:

- **Time, continuity and change** - is on understanding and valuing the past in people’s lives, and the development of critical thinking for the present and future.

- **Place, space and environment** - makes links between students lives and other elements of the natural and social worlds, particularly as they explore local environments.

- **Societies and cultures** - is on understanding, appreciating and communicating aspects of individual and group identity such as beliefs, values, customs and practices of diverse societies and cultures, both local and distant in time and place, as well as the interactions and interdependence of societies and cultures in local, national, the Asia-Pacific regional and global environments. There is an emphasis on Australia’s multicultural society and an explicit focus on the unique place Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures have in Australia.

- **Social systems** - Through analysing and understanding the rights and responsibilities, and roles and relationships, of people and groups in a variety of settings within political, legal and economic systems, students learn to cooperate with others to solve problems and analyse how and why decisions are made. Through participation in informed decision-making in their school, community and civil society, they develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for active present and future citizenship.

Balaklava Primary School is proud of its strong community connections, and the Learning Area of Society and Environment certainly lends itself to expanding the walls of the classroom to include both the local and wider community. Relationships between students and residents at both Mill Court and Ira Parker have been strengthened; local excursions to the Balaklava Museum always add value to student understanding of the past and the Federation Wall provides a unique insight into our community’s heritage.