Following is the write up that appeared on the Peace Run website following their time in Mannum.

I would like to share it with you because it highlights just how generous, kind and friendly our students can be and how others view them.

It makes me so proud of our students to read something like this.

Tracey Barnes
Primary Counsellor

Today we had an incredible start to our day with a wonderful reception at Mannum Community College. I arrived early to the school to confirm the final details before the team arrived. As I was sitting in the office waiting for Tracey (our staff contact) a student came running in very excitedly proclaiming to her friend that the Peace Runners will be coming today!

Over the last few weeks, each classroom had watched two different DVDs about the Peace Run, written poetry, painted posters or ‘Thank You’ art for the team. They had been following us online and knew all about us!

We were greeted by two students who welcomed us and gave us directions to run around the quadrangle, passing all the other students before finishing outside one of the classrooms.

The children greeted us with us a sea of art and poetry, the likes of which hasn’t been seen before on an Australian Peace Run. There was hardly a student without some form of offering for world peace. Against the backdrop of a huge human "Welcome" sign,

The students had been watching online videos of the Peace Run before our visit and were incredibly inspired.

It was mutual inspiration as the children read out their thoughts on peace, led by Ebony, which in turn lifted the runners.

Along with their song they presented the runners with artwork and some huge banners equal to their huge efforts for us to treasure on our journey.

They then all lined the quad so that each student could hold the torch.

The Assistant Principal, Michele Holloway, then came up to receive the Certificate of Appreciation and she spoke of how proud they were to have the Peace Run come to their school.

Mannum Community College is a wonderful school! They have an unofficial motto of Awesomeness, and each child has signed a gratitude pledge that reads ...

"On this day and every day, I pledge to myself
I will be thankful for what I have
For the people who I love and people who love me
I will walk tall and not be afraid to fall
I will be kind and help others just because I can
I will brighten this day with my smile
I will do my best to be the best me I can be."

Classes 3 and 4 presented us with a big poster saying ‘Thank You’ to the Peace Run for coming to their school.

Now it was time to – run! ... ... making them all official Peace Runners!

As we were not pressed for other appointments and we had received so much joy from this school, we stayed a little longer than normal and just embraced the happy joyful feeling we received from all students and teachers here.

Time to depart ... ... and yet still, on both sides of the fence, our parting was not so easy!

We are literally taking a piece of Mannum College with us, a token of something much vaster we are carrying in our hearts.

Mannum Community College had the honour of hosting the Sri Chinmoy Oneness Peace Run. The Sri Chinmoy Oneness Peace Run is a global relay that seeks to promote international friendship and understanding. Students from Reception to year 9 were given the opportunity to hold the torch and wave flags from different countries. The Peace Run volunteers gave up their precious time to talk to us about the purpose of their mission as well as run around our school oval holding the flags and torch. Many students made posters and banners emphasizing the importance of Peace, which the volunteers took with them to swap with other schools and to display on a large wall in Canberra. The volunteers were very proud and honoured to feel so welcomed by Mannum Community College students' and staff and their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Since its inception in 1987 the Run has travelled over 100 nations and touched the lives of millions of people. The Peace Run does not seek to raise money or highlight any political cause, but simply strives to create goodwill among peoples of all nations.

The Peace Run travels from Uluru, the emblematic heart of Australia, to the capital Canberra in a symbolic journey through October and November. Lighting the torch at the very heart of the continent, the flame will then travel south through the Flinders Ranges to Adelaide, then follow the length of the mighty Murray River from its mouth to its source, including Murray Bridge, Mannum and the Riverland and ascend Mt Kosciuszko before concluding in Canberra. You can follow the Peace Run by logging on to www.peacerun.org/au

Written by Michelle Grieger

The following pictures are from the official website of the Peace Run.
You can see more at http://www.peacerun.org/au/news/2014/1105/1120/