

DECADE-LONG ART PROJECT IS READY

IT'S been 10 years in the making, but now Hawthorn's Bialik College is set to unveil its new art paying tribute to children killed in the Holocaust.

The school has collected 1.5 million buttons which will be unveiled on Friday, with local MPs Josh Frydenberg and John Pesutto to attend.

The Button Project has been running at Bialik since 2007, when the then Grade 4 students, who graduated in 2015, decided that buttons were a fitting memorial for the murdered children because they came in many different shapes, sizes and colours "just like children".

Over the years,

successive groups of Bialik students have been involved, placing button collection boxes in shops and helping design the sculpture that will house the buttons.

The sculpture has 22 perspex cylinders of different sizes, representing the European countries where children lost their lives.

Principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner said the school could not have achieved the work without the support of the community.

"Literally hundreds of thousands of buttons were posted or delivered to our school as a contribution to the button project," Mr Stowe-Lindner said.



Students Ben, Kayla, Benji and Naomi add some of the last buttons. Picture: STEVE TANNER