



Issue # 6 2022

Mob News **First Nations** **Student Support Unit Newsletter**

Welcome to edition 6 of Mob News, the newsletter from the First Nations Student Support Unit at Alexandra Hills State High School. We have been busy again and our Mob have done some amazing things both at school and in the broader community. Our Mob have danced to show case their talents, acknowledged to showcase their respect and been awarded as recognition of their academic success.

Student Success



Jaime has continued on with her, 'Deadly' form and has been awarded the South East Region Barna Jarjum Instrumental Music Award and also the Senior Subject Award for the Arts. On Thursday 16th June, Jaime was presented as the inaugural winner of the Instrumental Music Award and then awarded for her academic excellence in the Senior Subject Award for the Arts as part of the South East Region NAIDOC Award Ceremony held at Beaudesert State High School. Jaime was one of only two students to receive multiple awards.

Great Job, Jaime!

The Mulunjarli Elders were great hosts and it was a privilege to be invited onto their Country.

Welcome

We would like to introduce two key staff that have a great deal to do with our unit.

Di Henderson—ASHS QATSIF Office assistant

and

Amy Thorley—First Nations Teachers Aide



'DEADLY, COOEE ELDERS!'

It was a priveledge to be present at the South East Region NAIDOC Awards to see our beautiful COOEE Elders be awarded the South East Region 2022 NAIDOC Community Members of the Year Award.



Our respect and Acknowledgement to the Mulunjarli Elders for hosting the event on such beautiful Country.

NAIDOC NEWS

Our NAIDOC parades will take place on Wednesday the 27th July. We will enjoy the company of invited Elders, QATSIF staff, RCC staff, Yulu Burri Ba staff and invited community members and will showcase the dancing talents of our Biram and Yarrabin dance troupe. Please come along and enjoy the day with us. We will also be hosting a morning tea after the event.

We will again be honoured by Uncle Norm from the Minjerribah/Moorgumpin Elders in Council and COOEE Elders.





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Issue #6 2022



COOEE Sorry Day



We were honoured to have been asked to dance and speak at the COOEE Sorry Day , Sharing the Voices of the Younger Generations, on the 26th of May. Our senior Biram Yarrabin dance troupe performed three traditional Quandamooka dances in front of the Minjerriba/Moorgumpin Elders in Council, COOEE Elders, invited Elders, community workers, elected council representatives, RCC Cultural staff, Qld Police, school support staff and invited guests, while two of our students spoke about what Sorry Day meant to them. It was also nice to share our experience with the Wellington Point School Captains and to honour the Haynes family and their grandfather, Uncle Peter Costello who was a respected Elder and survivor of the Stolen Generation.



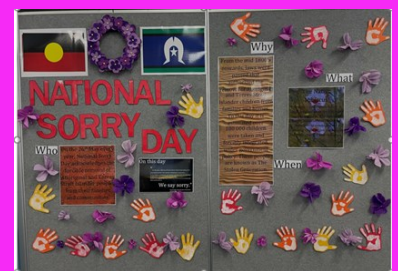
Uncle Norm, Minjerribah/Moorgumpin Elder did a heartfelt, Welcome to Country and it was fantastic to hear views from non-First Nations and First Nations students and what Sorry Day meant to them. Gypsy provided a very emotional poem that highlighted the need for understanding, acknowledgement and education. Such a powerful insight needs to be shared and it is below.

What sorry day means to me

I could be typical and say, SORRY DAY means to only remember the mistreatment of First Nations people and move on to another thought. Never again thinking about two words again. Unfortunately for too many, not of our culture, those two words – SORRY DAY mean too little and are only thought about when required.

However, SORRY DAY is much more. It is a feeling that runs deep within our people and represents a truth that many do not want to accept. I accept it and wish to acknowledge our Elders past. Acknowledge our culture. Acknowledge the memories. Acknowledge the wrong doings to our people and Acknowledge that my strength will allow me to speak up for those that choose not to, when I say: Sorry to those that were hurt; Sorry to those who are still hurting; Sorry to those that were stolen; And Sorry to us all because our Country was and still is being torn apart; I do not choose to accept the anger of those that do not understand. I want to educate them about the sadness, pain and hurt that my people feel. I want us all one day to pick up the pieces lost and unite without racism and accepted betrayal.

I want SORRY DAY to not only be remembered by our people, but to never be forgotten by everyone.





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COOEE Elders visit—Reconciliation yarn and morning tea

For part of Reconciliation week we hosted our wonderful Elders from COOEE for a yarn and morning tea. The Elders conveyed the true meaning of Reconciliation and the struggles and hardships that our culture have faced.

Personal stories allowed our Mob a real insight into how our Elders have overcome adversity to triumph, be successful and walk forward in life with cultural and personal pride.



After the yarn, we were treated to an indigenous flavoured morning tea by the Practical Arts Department. We are always thankful for Mrs Candy, Mrs Hammond, Mrs Lutton and Mrs Sutton for taking the time with their students to make such beautiful food.



We would like to thank, Aunty Margie, Aunty Marion, Aunty Professor Boni, Aunty Rhonda and Uncle Norm for taking time out of their busy schedules to yarn with us. The time you spend with us is so special and greatly appreciated.



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Deadly Respect

On Tuesday 31st May the 'Struddy's Cup' rugby league teams acknowledged Reconciliation Week by linking arms with their opponents, Stretton State College prior to kicking off the Year 8 fixture. Both schools stood in unity as Year 9 student Thomas, a proud young Wiradjuri man, Acknowledged Country. Both teams were then led out onto the field by their First Nations team members.

'DEADLY work—Thomas'



QATSIF Applications

The round 14 applications for 2023 Year 11 students have been sent home for completion. A parent information night will be held on the 19th of July in the IEC at 5:00pm.

If you are attending the evening could you please let Di Hendensen—QATSIF Office Assistant know and please bring the paperwork on the night.



Happy birthday to our Mob that had a birthday in Term 2

Cooper, Seth, Jipal, Hope, Mikayla, J'aime, Riley, Liam, Alex, Kyran, Micaiah, Kaitlyn, Nicci-Maree, Thomas, Lucinda, Miekyla, Christian, Jacob, Pete, Jaime, Sienna, Charli, Kyla, Aaliyah, Zoey

ANZAC Day

We again began the ANZAC Day commemorations this year, with Nicci-Maree taking a leading role and acknowledged all serving



personal including the 5300 First Nations personal, many who changed their cultural identity, just to enlist. We would like to thank Aunty Marion who was present for both ceremonies.

We were also granted access into the life of a soldier by a former First Nations student who is serving in the ADF. Joshua was given permission to visit our school for the day. He spoke with some of our Mob about opportunities in the army. Our Mob spent a very insightful P3 in the yarning circle.



"We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this country; We pay respect to the care takers of the land, wind and waterways. We pay respect to the Nunukul Goenpul and Nughi, people of the Quandamooka Nation, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging for they are the keepers of memories, traditions and lore of First Nations People of Australia."





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Junior Art Exhibition



Some of our Mobs' work was on show at the Junior Art Exhibition.

It was great to see them really exploring the curriculum and identifying with their culture by including Australian Aboriginal symbols that mean something to them.

Great Work!

BRONCOS NEWS



This year one of our

students, Bee was chosen to paint a pair of boots for the Indigenous Round. The player Bee painted for

was
Brendan
Piakaru.



QATSIF Mabo

and Reconciliation Commorations



On the 3rd of June, 4 scholarship recipients travelled to Griffith University, Logan Campus to participate in the QATSIF Mabo Day and Reconciliation Week Celebrations.



These activities are an important process in providing a cultural connection to other scholarship recipients from different schools and allows our scholarship recipients the opportunity to appreciate where the QATSIF funds

come from — Stolen Wages.

Sorry Business

We have experienced a lot of Sorry Business in our school and extended community this term and we would like to respectfully acknowledge the families and honour their loved ones.

"We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this country; We pay respect to the care takers of the land, wind and waterways. We pay respect to the Nunukul Goenpul and Nughu, people of the Quandamooka Nation, and pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging for they are the keepers of memories, traditions and lore of First Nations People of Australia."

