



Mob News **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support**

Issue # 4 Term 3/4 2021

Welcome to, edition four of Mob News, the Newsletter from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Support Unit at Alexandra Hills State High School. We have held back the term 3 Mob News because there was a lot happening in the latter half of the semester that we wanted to share. Our new Principal, Mrs Julie-Ann McCullough began the challenging role of Principal, we celebrated NAIDOC, stood proud at the Annual Award Ceremonies, wished our Year 12's farewell, held Beyond the Broncos workshops, welcomed Todd McDonald to our school, been welcomed by our COOEE Elders to participate in a First Nations Young Men's Mentoring Program, invited to attend a Cultural Competency Training Program with the MMEIC Elders in Council and had many opportunities to showcase our mob celebrating life at school with their friends.

Goodbye, but not farewell!

Jenny Bourke has been our wonderful Unit Manager for many years. Sadly, we say goodbye at the end of this year as she passes the baton to Esther Alexander, our school's Deputy. Over the years, our First Nation's students and staff have benefited greatly from Mrs Bourke's guidance and are grateful for her direction whist in her role.



It will be sad to say goodbye, however, she will not be too far away when advice is needed.

Thank you for all the time and effort you have given us, you will be missed.

Welcome

On behalf of all our Mob, I would like to welcome our new Principal, Mrs Julie-Ann McCullough to our school.

Julie-Anne brings a wealth of knowledge to our school and will continue to lead us in a direction that will not only support our First Nations students, but all students at AHSHS.



NAIDOC

We celebrated with MMEIC Elder -Uncle Norm, COOEE Elders -Aunty Margie, Aunty Marion, Uncle Barry, and Brett Nutley from the Redlands City Council and Ken Munro from Yulu Burri Ba. We would like to thank Uncle Josh Walker for allowing us to perform traditional Quandamooka dances.

Special Thanks

We would also like to thank the Practical Arts Staff and students, managed by Mrs Kerry Candy for providing a traditional flavoured morning tea. The food was amazing and showcased unique Australian Native Food flavours and the talents of the Year 11 and 12 hospitality students.





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Farewell and all the best!

Today we said farewell to our 2021 Graduating Year 12's. We are so proud of these young First Nation students and wish them every success for the future.



Sharni,
Jili
Ellie,
Chloe, Blake, Seth and Anthony.



We would also like to congratulate the entire 2021 Year 12 cohort and wish them every success for their future.

Thank you!

Throughout the year we have been blessed with the support, guidance and encouragement of many. Our Mob has benefited from this guidance and we would like to thank the following.

- Minjeeribah Moorgumpin Elders in Council and Kate COOEE Elders
- Brett Nutley—Redlands City Council
- Kevin Munro—Yuli Burri Ba
- Mike Nayler—QATSIF
- Soroptomist International—Bayside—Ralda and Mitch
- AHSHS Executive Team, P & C , school staff and tuckshop
- Broncos

Congratulations to Mikayla for achieving a Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship for 2022/23.

This scholarship continues to recognise Mikayla's academic and personal potential and aims to equip her with the tools and support necessary for her to achieve excellence in her chosen fields of study.





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2021 Award Winners

Our students were represented well in this years award ceremony. It was so, 'deadly' to see three sets of siblings sharing the honours.



Subject Awards

- Thomas Croker—Rugby League Academy—Year 8
- Jaycob Kingston-Francis—Rugby League Academy—Year 10

Academic Awards

- Kaitlyn Harrison and Thomas Croker—Year 8
- Lucinda Fawcett—Year 9
- Mikayla Harrison—Year 10
- Nicci-Maree Wolski—Year 11

School Community and Services Award

- Jack Croker—Junior

COOEE First Nations Award

- Oliver Fawcett—Junior

COOEE First Nations Award

This award is given to a First Nations student in the junior school who has achieved continual academic success and participated in First Nations cultural activities with pride.

Oliver displayed great leadership qualities and commitment by participating in, and leading, NAIDOC dance performances at various local state schools and on campus.

Furthermore, he has been a supportive role model to the younger First Nations students of the school whilst displaying promising leadership skills moving forward into his senior years of schooling.

Well done, Oliver!



Senior Award

Congratulation to Sharni for being awarded the COOEE—Aunty Katherine Beezley Award.



Sharni also was awarded the QATSIF School Leader Award.

We have new artwork and unit office name.

We have painted our unit door and had our office named in traditional Jaidai language—Yanggabara. Meaning, 'safe space', it is just another place for our Mob to come and connect.



We would like to thank the MMEIC Elders in Council for supporting our wish to use the name.

New staff member

The unit would like to welcome Leanna. She has hit the ground running and is doing an amazing job.



QATSIF News

Each year QATSIF release bursary scholarships to Queensland year 11 and 12 students. AHSHS applied for 13 and all 13 applicants were successful.

Well Done!

QATSIF also donated two laptops to students to keep.



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COOEE First Nations Young Men's Mentoring Program

Thank you to the COOEE Elders for inviting a group of boys to participate in such a valuable cultural experience. To be asked to yarn and learn from community Elders is something that is special and from all accounts, will be valued by the boys that attended, for a long time. The boys attended COOEE for over 10 weeks and were provided with many opportunities to learn more about First Nations culture, protocols and respected traditions. The program concluded with a, Walk on Country with the MMEIC and COOEE Elders.

An absolute privilege and honour.



MMEIC Cultural Capability Training Excursion—Walk on Country

The boys who attended the First Nations Young Men's Mentoring Program at COOEE were privileged to Walk on Country with the MMEIC Elders—Uncle Norm, Aunty Jane and Aunty Maureen and COOEE Elders— Aunty Bonnie, Aunty Margie, Aunty Marion and Uncle Barry. Even though the day was wet, the boys revelled in the cultural connection and enjoyed a wealth of knowledge delivered by Uncle Norm and Aunty Maureen. We were Welcomed to Country by Uncle Norm and were given an in-depth insight into Quandamooka history and a chance to view display boards highlighting the achievements of our Elders.

A bush tucker morning tea was highly valued as was the MMEIC museum tour. We then visited the Polka Point Midden, Lake Bumiera (Brown Lake), Moongalba (Myora Mission) and Terra Bulla Leumeah Conservation Reserve - bush tucker walk . It was a fantastic experience that will be valued for a long time.



SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that all students attend school each day. If for any reason your child will not be at school please contact the office— (07) 3820 1444. Also, if your child is sick, please obtain a medical certificate.

Term 1, 2022 will see some change regarding jewellery. Nose rings and excessive earrings will be collected by Mr Hume, bagged with the owners name and returned at the end of the week. Similarly, the mobile phone policy will be enforced with more vigour. Our Mob needs to lead the way and set the example.



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This term, Todd McDonald has joined the team at AHSHS as a Student Support Officer. Todd will be offering mentorship and support to our male Jarjums.

"I'm a proud Mandandanji man from Roma, born and raised in Brisbane. Post high school I lived in America playing baseball professionally for the, 'Texas Rangers Organisation' as one of the first Australian Aboriginals to sign a professional baseball contract. Since returning home, I have been mentoring and working within schools assisting our indigenous youth and will continue to do so within my role as SSO for the Beyond Broncos Program. I am planning to create fulfilling opportunities for our indigenous youth which may enable them to have a sense of belonging within a safe space."



We celebrated our graduating Year 12 girls at a lovely luncheon hosted by the Broncos. We were lucky enough to have Julie-Ann McCullough, our new principal join Sharni and COOEE Elders—Aunty Marion, Uncle Barry and girls SSO, Jasmin at the celebration. Sharni delivered a great valedictorian speech to her fellow Year 12 cohort. It was inspiring to say the least.



The Broncos Ambassadors also facilitated our, 'Deadly Games' workshop this term, where all our Jarjums were able to let their hair down and have some fun. It was a great way to connect with each other and meet some of our awesome Ambassadors. This was the first workshop attended by the boys . To say it got competitive was an understatement!



We also handed out our NRMA award to Kyla Mellare. She received this award for her efforts with her academic achievement, her great attitude and her strong cultural leadership. The NRMA award is an annual award that all students on the program, work towards.

The girls also received their, 'Attendance' rewards this term - a 'DEADLY' shirt. To be eligible for this reward the girls needed to have at least 90% attendance. The girls also received a little gift bag from, "Share the Dignity" which was filled with products that are necessities for our young women.



The boys also received their, 'Welcome Pack.'



We are so proud of the achievements and growth our First Nations students.

"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 all Elders past, present and emerging for they are the keepers of memories, traditions and lore of First Nations People of Australia."

