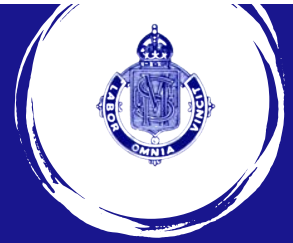


# DEADLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

at Maitland Grossmann High School



Issue 1



## ANIKANYA - HELLO

by Mrs Elise Tonnet  
(Aboriginal Student Advisor)

To begin, we would like to acknowledge and pay respects to our Elders both past, present and future for they hold the ancestral connection to country, to our traditions, to our lore and embody hope for Aboriginal Australia. We must always remember that beneath the surface of our schools, this land is and always will be traditional Wonnarua land.

In the words of the custodians of our local landscape, Anikanya (Ani-gunya), meaning 'Hello' or 'Welcome' in Wonnarua language, from the Aboriginal Education Team at Maitland Grossmann High School. We would like to officially extend a warm welcome to all our First Nations students and their families in 2021.

This newsletter is to give you some important information about Aboriginal Education and the Cultural initiatives that currently operate at our school. At MGHS we strongly value Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and all First Nation's cultural traditions and histories and wish to support and build strong relationships with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, their families and communities.

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# DEADLY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER



What's on...

Issue 1



## CULTURE STRONG

**With Genus Passi from Youth Express**

*Culture Strong* is a school based program designed to provide our students with knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture. During Week 6, First Nations students will be invited to participate in our first Year 7 to 12 Culture Strong Workshop. Students will hear from a guest speaker and participate in a range of activities designed to encourage students to embrace First Nations identities while becoming more culturally aware, including team based activities, weaving and boomerang painting.

**Our first Culture Strong Workshop is on Wednesday, 10th March in our School Hall, Period 1, 2 and 3. Permission notes will be given to students in Week 6 and can also be requested from Mrs Tonnet.**



*Join us in week 7!*  
**MAITLAND LOCAL  
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION  
CONSULTATIVE GROUP**  
Tenambit Primary School  
Tuesday, 9th March, 4pm



## WEAVING CLUB

**With Miss Cronk, Mrs Tonnet and Ms Bertwistle**

Weaving Club, coordinated by Miss Cronk, is a great opportunity for students to learn about the history and traditional uses of weaving. Students are taught to create a range of modern woven pieces including bracelets, coils, baskets and mats all while having a yarn and making new connections.

**Weaving club is every Wednesday, Lunch 2 in E224. All students are welcome to come along.**



*Join us!*  
**MGHS CULTURE  
STRONG & JUNIOR AECG**

Google Classroom Code:  
wpslecw

**Youth  
Express**  
*on the right track*



## CITIZENSHIP GIFT PROJECT

by Mr Adam Pratt  
(CAPA Faculty)

Over the year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will again have the opportunity to draw on and develop a range of artmaking skills based on traditional art making styles with contemporary mediums.

This involves the design and creation of boomerangs for citizenship gifts for new Australians, which will be presented during civic ceremonies by the local parliamentary member Jenny Aitchison. This aims to build community connections with the school and students, and highlight the strong link to our local Aboriginal heritage through the designs and symbolism incorporated in the boomerang designs. This is also symbolic of our rich history, connecting the past traditional owners with new Australians to show our diverse community. The artworks have clear signage recognising the individual student artist, mob and school. This project has been successful in building stronger peer relationships across school year groups and enhancing students design and artmaking skills. Over the last two years the project has had continued support from the local member Jenny Aitchison and has been introduced to other local high schools with the aim to build stronger connections within the broader school communities.



**Meet MGHS Aboriginal Education Team - Mrs Tonnet, Mr Fletcher, Miss Cronk, Mr Focic, Mr Pratt, Mr Fara, Miss MacDonald, Miss Rogers, Mr Bergamo, Mr Frazer, Mrs Wakem, Ms Shearer**

## JUNIOR AECG

### *Aboriginal Education Consultative Group*

Our 2020-2021 Junior AECG committee, as nominated and elected by their peers and staff will be formally acknowledged for their selection into their important roles at our special SRC and Junior AECG Induction Assembly this Thursday, 4th of March in our School Hall . Students on the Junior AECG team can be Indigenous and non-Indigenous, forming a united group that proudly promote the voice for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students while advocating for Aboriginal educational and cultural initiatives in the school.



## EXCURSION iBelieve Program @ Wollotuka, University of Newcastle

**When: Week 6, Thursday, 11th March**



Year 7, 8 and 9 First Nations students are invited to participate in the University led initiative, iBelieve Program, this year held at the University of Newcastle. This program is designed to immerse students in aspirational thinking activities created to promote and encourage the importance of schooling and determine what motivates students to set high standards and realistic goals for themselves. Students will engage with culturally enriched knowledge and practical activities, which will help to shape their unique identities and develop their personal skills to deal with challenges. The iBelieve program aims to plant the seed of empowerment through education, by offering and providing University as a potential option for students to begin thinking of their future in a culturally safe space at the Wollotuka Institute. Permission notes will be sent home in Week 6.



Wonnarua Dreaming - Our new School Mural designed and created by First Nations students in collaboration with artist 'Mulga'. [Click the image to watch a time lapse video of the process](#) - Mr Focic

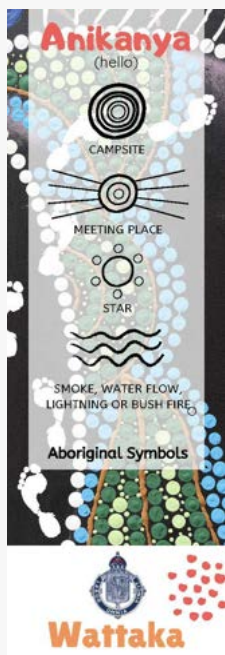


Image: Wattaka (Wonnarua word for 'meeting place') our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Learning Space in our School Library.

## PERSONALISED LEARNING PATHWAYS (PLPS)

Mrs Tonnet (Coordinator)

PLPs are an active process within our school. They are developed in conversation with the student, parents, carers and teachers, to identify, organise and apply personal approaches to learning and engagement.

Every First Nations student will be mentored by one of our teachers and support staff. Mentors guide students with developing and working towards personalised SMART goals. Teachers will be engaging students in PLP Yarn Ups over the next few weeks with the aim to set three goals (short and/or long term). Parents and Carers can access PLPs on the Sentral Parent Portal.

## Tradition of High Expectations and Success

Click below to see a special interview with our 2019 Year 12 Dux, Isabella Pearson (14:30 mins)



### 2020 Year 12 Graduates

JOSH SHERWOOD IS NOW STUDYING AT NAISDA

TELIAH CLARKE IS COMPLETING A TRAINEESHIP IN CHILDCARE

