

# Belconnen High School Newsletter

## Belconnen High School



Term 2 , Week 5 School Newsletter



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



The first half of this term 2 has been filled with fabulous learning opportunities for our students and increased connections with our whole school community as seen throughout the newsletter. I would like to highlight the activities during week 4 where our students participated in a range of programs designed to enrich and develop their skills and knowledge with real world experiences.

Our year 10 students worked through the Road Ready Course developing skills and knowledge to safely take to the road. They were overwhelmingly successful in this endeavour with many completing the ACT licence theory course. I wish all families the very best as they start their driver training in the near future. Thank you to our Road Ready trained staff and support staff for their excellent work in supporting our Year 10's with this learning.

Many of our year 8 students travelled to Jindabyne for Year 8 Camp. This camp provided students with opportunities to participate in team building activities and challenge themselves in outdoor adventure pursuits. Students and staff had a fabulous time mountain biking, hiking Mt Kosciuszko and working together to solve initiative challenges. Thank you to Dan Ewin for his organisation and to the staff that gave of their time to make this camp a memorable experience for all the Year 8's.



Our year 7 and 9 students positively engaged in the NAPLAN testing in a schedule that allowed for some free time and free choice activities at the beginning and end of each day. This schedule created a calm and positive environment for students to do their best during the NAPLAN tests.

These students then had the opportunity to participate in the 'Our Stories' learning day on Friday. This day was an opportunity to learn skills in communication and storytelling, research the stories of some of our BHS Alumni, and try out our new skills with some special guests.

I would like to thank all our special guests who volunteered their time to support our students in their learning during the day.

Our guest speakers, Sarah Lansdown (Education Reporter, Canberra Times ) and Andrew Kirk (Media And Communications Trainer) engaged our students with their career stories and provided a range of useful tips in researching and presenting interesting stories.



Our special guests worked with Pastoral Care Groups in the afternoon to share their stories about Belconnen High School. A huge thank you to Dennis Flannery, Ian Boxhall, Valerie Barker, Gillian Martin, John Strockbridge, Mike Sainsberry and Gayle Lander who each shared so willingly of their time and experience. I am looking forward to seeing the mini-profiles that students will produce in follow-up to the workshops. Thank you to all the staff who supported the delivery of this day.

The next step in engaging our community in the 50th year celebrations will be for each Pastoral Care Group to connect with a chosen person from a list of BHS Alumni. Their story will be captured and published in our newsletter and special edition yearbook.

The week 4 activities were a highlight for me. Watching students engage with learning in different ways, manage change with resilience, interact with community members and each other with respect and achieve positive learning outcomes was very rewarding.

## P&C NEWS



### **Bunnings BBQ**

A massive thank you to everyone who helped make our recent Bunnings BBQ a huge success. We ended up making \$1957 profit that the P&C will invest back into future needs for the school. This fantastic result was only possible due to the support of all the parents who put their hand up to help out on the day (about 35!) and the efforts of the P&C committee to plan and prepare for the day.

Also, a big shout out to Woolworths Belconnen and Coles Jamison who generously contributed to the supply of the 800 odd snags we sold on the day.

Thanks again to everyone involved ☺

### **BHS 50th anniversary**

The P&C is supporting two initiatives to both help celebrate the 50th anniversary of BHS, while also fundraising for the school:

#### ***Commemorative Coffee Blend – now available!***

The wait is over... the much anticipated, limited edition 'BHS 50th Anniversary Coffee Beans' are now on sale! This very special blend has been expertly sourced through local café, [Neutral Grounds](#) and comes adorned with a stunning piece of original artwork by Yr8 Artist in Residence, Annabel, at no extra cost.

The 250g bags of beans are available at the Uniform Shop for \$15 every Thursday from 2.30–3pm or by contacting Toni on 0403848064 for alternate options.



### ***Trivia Night – 23 October***

The P&C is also organising a BHS Trivia Night to coincide with 50th anniversary celebrations around Belconnen Day in term 3. For now, please save the date (23 October) and keep an eye out for more details to come...

### **Next meeting**

Our next P&C meeting will be on Monday 19 July (term 2, week 2) at 6.00 pm. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend – either in person or online. We will send further details early next term but for now please mark it in your calendar.

To join the P&C distribution list, please email Sam (secretary) at [bhspnc@gmail.com](mailto:bhspnc@gmail.com).

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS



### First Yearbook - PIPPITA '71

We now have a copy of the first BHS Yearbook from BHS's first year in 1971 thanks to David Bennett a former student from the 1970's.

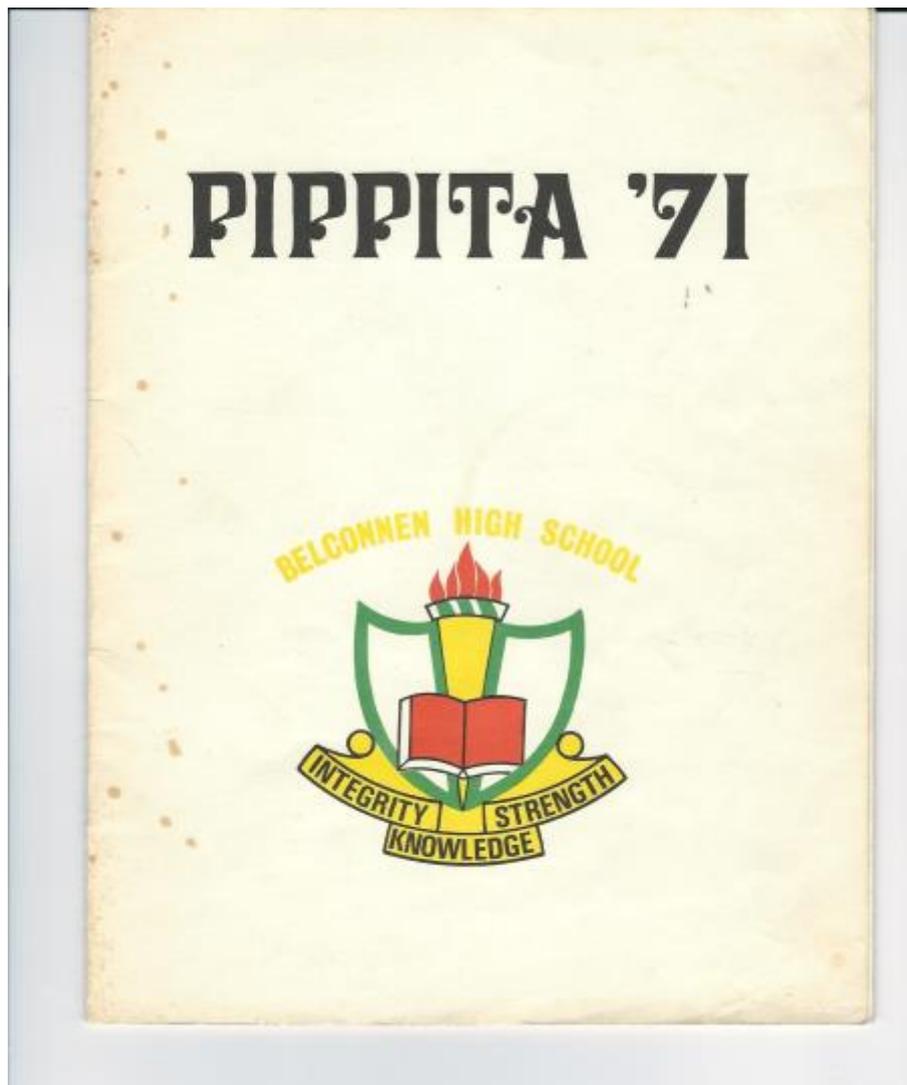
As well we now have some background to the Yearbook's name and its Aboriginal language source.

*'I was a member of the Magazine Committee for the 1971 report and I do have a vague recollection that the name Pippita was nominated by a student because it meant small hawk in one of the many Aboriginal languages and so was relevant to the school's suburb of Hawker.'* (David Bennett)

The attached pages contain: the first Principal's Report for the first Yearbook; a report on BHS's first few months which involved students being temporarily housed at Lyneham High School for the first term of 1971; and

a page which provides the background to the school's LOGO and MOTTO.

Note: Missing Yearbooks - our collection is now missing just 5 Yearbooks: 1995, 1996, 2011, 2012; and 2014.



1 - Pippita 1971 Cover



# PIPPITA '71

THE YEARBOOK OF BELCONNEN HIGH SCHOOL

**Principal:**  
Mr. F. G. McKenzie

**General Editor:**  
Mr. R. R. Stone

**Literary Editor:**  
Mr. D. O'Hickie

**Sport Editor:**  
Mr. M. Wallace

**Art Editor:**  
Mrs. S. Carr, Mrs. W. Buckland

**Magazine Committee:**  
D. Kow, M. Lacey, E. Mackenzie, N. McNally, D. Bennett,  
C. Norris, L. Ayles, N. Gascogne, D. Marshall, E. Gibbons

**Photography:**  
Mr. K. Merrill, Mr. M. Wallace, Mr. R. Stone

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Belconnen High School's first year has been an outstanding success. I attribute this highly successful year to the co-operation, so evident, between our keen students, our excellent staff and our interested and helpful parents.

This co-operation is exemplified in the ensuing discussion.

The school uniform was selected as follows: each student listed his/her ideas of colour, design, material; the students' wishes were collated and passed on to the Uniform Committee elected by the Parents and Citizens Association; the Uniform Committee, aware of student, parent and staff wishes, is to be commended upon the pleasing uniform submitted to the P. & C. for discussion and acceptance. The school badge was selected, by democratic student and staff voting, from numerous entries submitted by students in a school competition to obtain our badge. A Second Form student, Maria Patis, had one of her school badge entries accepted and this badge now enhances our uniform. Students are now wearing the new school uniform with understandable pride and dignity.

I desire that this school should produce young ladies and gentlemen who, above all else, are known for their integrity. I also wish to see strength of character, strength of body, (demonstrated in good health) and sound knowledge and clear independent thought as final attributes of students leaving this school. I wish to implore upon each student that he/she should aim to meet these standards indicated in our school motto, which is INTEGRITY, STRENGTH, KNOWLEDGE. Continued democratic co-operation between students, staff and parents will help attain these aims.

I thank the staff whom I hold in high esteem for their valuable work during this year. I thank the P. & C. under the fine presidency of Mrs. R. Ayles and now Mr. R. McCreath for the tremendous amount of effort they have put into our school. I thank Mrs. A. Mackenzie and the Canteen Committee for their excellent service to the school. I thank the Uniform Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Griffin for their sterling work.

It is with confidence that I look forward to an even more successful 1972.

- F. G. MCKENZIE (PRINCIPAL)

## STAFF 1971



**Staff:** Mrs. van der Kuylenoord, Mrs. J. Baker, Mr. N. Williams, Mr. Rawlin (Deputy Principal), Mr. F. G. McKenzie (Principal), Mr. O'Malley, Mrs. Wilson (Canteen Supervisor), Mrs. Griffin, Mr. K. Merrill, Mr. Stone, Mrs. Welch, Mrs. Whitton, Mrs. Buckland, Mrs. Zeman, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Dixon, Mr. Kinnear, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Duckworth, Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Blair.

**Absent:** Mrs. Carr.

Anzac 1971, perhaps not the 50th or Centenary Anniversary of the event, but a year to remember with regard to Belconnen High. It was the first commemoration by our new school and indeed one to remember. We had invited Major N. J. Harris and Chaplain Bellbird to attend our remembrance, and their attendance made the ceremony pleasant and interesting.

Capt Penzance, of Form I, gave his factual account of the Gallipoli confrontation while Susan Castle, of Form II, continued by describing other battles in which the Australian digger has done his share. Chris Norris, Form III, finished by giving the sole and meaning of ANZAC today, after 54 years.

After the Remembrance, Major Harris delivered a most interesting Anzac Oration which was followed by various Acts of Remembrance.

Finally Chrysmus Martin presented the Major with a gift as a token of our gratitude for his being present. All in all, the service had real meaning and filled yet another chapter in the history of our fledgling school.

—Chris Norris, Form III

## SCHOOL BADGE & MOTTO



Badge Designer: Marie Parris

This page has been directed by the staff of A.Z.M.

Our school badge is shown on the front cover of this magazine along with the motto: Integrity, Strength and Knowledge.

The pupils and staff decoratively selected the school badge from designs submitted by our students. The school picked badge number 5 which was designed by Marie Parris. With the help of the Art teachers, Mrs Carr and Mrs Buckland, colours were chosen to suit the background of brown.

Report books bearing our school crest have been printed to record students' examination results each year.

—Doris King, Form III

## SCHOOL HISTORY

The history of our school really began at other schools. At Canberra High last year, rumours spread in second term of a new school — "Belconnen High". These rumours soon became fact and we learnt that our headmaster was to be Mr. F. McKinnon. He visited Canberra High and we were given details on subjects available, transport, and so on. We were told that our new school building would be finished late and that we would be temporarily housed in Lynnhurst High School.

At Lynnhurst we were settled down by routine. However, the timetable was somewhat inconvenient because of the restricted availability of specialist rooms (art, craft, etc.). It was at Lynnhurst that the school's first official event — the Athletics Carnival — took place. This day was won by White House. At that time our school numbered around 180 students and 15 staff — a relatively small school.

The school moved one week before the end of first term. The new school buildings were somewhat confusing, but by the beginning of second term most students had become used to the general layout of the school. In second term the first school dance was held, with great success.

The school uniforms is being worn now, and the students are gradually forming a firm and strong school spirit.

—Alex Wagstaff, Form II

## SCHOOL COUNCIL



Board: S. Dunlop, N. McNally (Chairwoman), M. F. McLennan (President), M. M. Kennedy (Deputy President), A. Bartlett, D. Hackett, A. Jones.  
 Standing: S. Whitman, J. Deland, L. Atkinson, A. Piper, C. Jones, M. O'Connell, H. James, S. Robinson, C. Bennett, D. Dunlop, G. Sherrington.

## THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The members of the school council voted amongst themselves to form a social committee. Those elected were: Nicole Whitman, Robert Bischof (Vice-Chairman), Steven Piper, Sue Beasley, Anthony McCraith, Narelle McNally (Chairwoman), Chris Jones and Richard Jones.

Our Committee could not have produced the socials without the help of such people as Peter Reinhardt, Michael Collins, Robert McPherson, Geoff Jones, Dennis Daniels and Amy Kitchenside.

We extend special thanks to Susan's father, Mr. Dunlop, and also to Gail Sherrington and her parents, for the use of special lighting equipment which they very kindly lent us.

To the present date we have held two socials — the first making a profit of \$20 and the second — a loss of \$30 (the loss being due to the high cost of groups and our small school population).

Although the socials were not financially successful, most people thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A great amount of work is put into a social and many people deserve a "thank you". However, the staff, the ladies who run the canteen on both nights and, of course, Mr. Rowlin and Mr. McKinnon, who assisted us with our preparations and allowed us the use of Lab 8, deserve special thanks.

—Narelle McNally, Robert Bischof (Form III)

## BHS Alumni

Our BHS Alumni list has been growing as more former students have made contact and shared their memories.

***'Yes I do remember the start of 1971 and having to catch buses to Lyneham High School and sharing their school and facilities with them. I remember everything was staggered by 30 minutes with Lyneham High so as not to overcrowd the school. I also remember when we actually did move in to BHS, I was in 1st Form and very excited about a brand new school. How time has flown!' (Herwig Reinhart)***

***"I enjoyed my four years at BHS and 1988 was a big year to be there. It was our year that chose the current red, black and white school uniform. It was a horrible mission brown before that. 1988 was also the bicentenary." (Andrew Park)***

## **Alumni Profile**

### **Fiona Tilley (BHS 1972-1975) - Alumni Profile**

Fiona Tilley graduated from BHS in 1975 and was in the first graduating year of Hawker College in 1977.

She started at ANU in 1977 and completed an Arts/Law degree. Fiona moved to New York working at JP Morgan rising to Vice-President of Corporate Finance. She then moved to SocGen Securities. However her deepest passion was for handcrafted art forms which led her to founding the Gurhan Jewellery Company in New York which has just had its 20th anniversary.

The three things Fiona attributes her academic and professional success to are: 'Never give up'; 'Find opportunity in adversity' and 'Know your why – what motivates you.'

#### ***Fiona's advice to female students wanting to go far in business or finance***

- Do it. Stand up, stand out, lean in. But do it as yourself.
- Don't take on anyone else's mantle as your own identity or try to be like what you imagine someone in such a role should be, otherwise you will forever be limiting yourself by someone else's interpretation of what it is to be successful.
- Don't force yourself to be a kickass woman because you don't need to be; it is enough to be authentic to yourself.
- Don't try to be like the guys, because you don't need to be; as women, we have our own armoires of strength.
- Don't succumb to the doubts that everyone knows more or is better than you. Trust me, they are floundering in the same pool of doubt; you just can't see it.
- Don't feel the need to be liked by everyone. Seeking approbation is a natural tendency for social animals but it is not a prerequisite to a full life. Set your own values and adhere to them and you will attract people who share those values and who will enhance your life instead of detract from it.

***"I've lived in NYC for 34 years now but still stay in touch with old BHS buddies." (Fiona Tilley 6 March 2021)***

## **Alumni Project: BHS Pastoral Care Group/Alumni Research Project**

The Project aims to have each Pastoral Care Group (PCG) to contact and connect with a BHS Alumni and through a series of interviews produce a profile containing the Alumni's memories of their school days at BHS and their following careers. These profiles will be housed on the school's website for future reference.

### **School Tours**

Tour 1 was held on Monday 29 March - See photo below.



Tour 2 will be held on Monday 24 May (5.00-6.30) for former students, staff and parents.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

### **End of Semester Awards.**

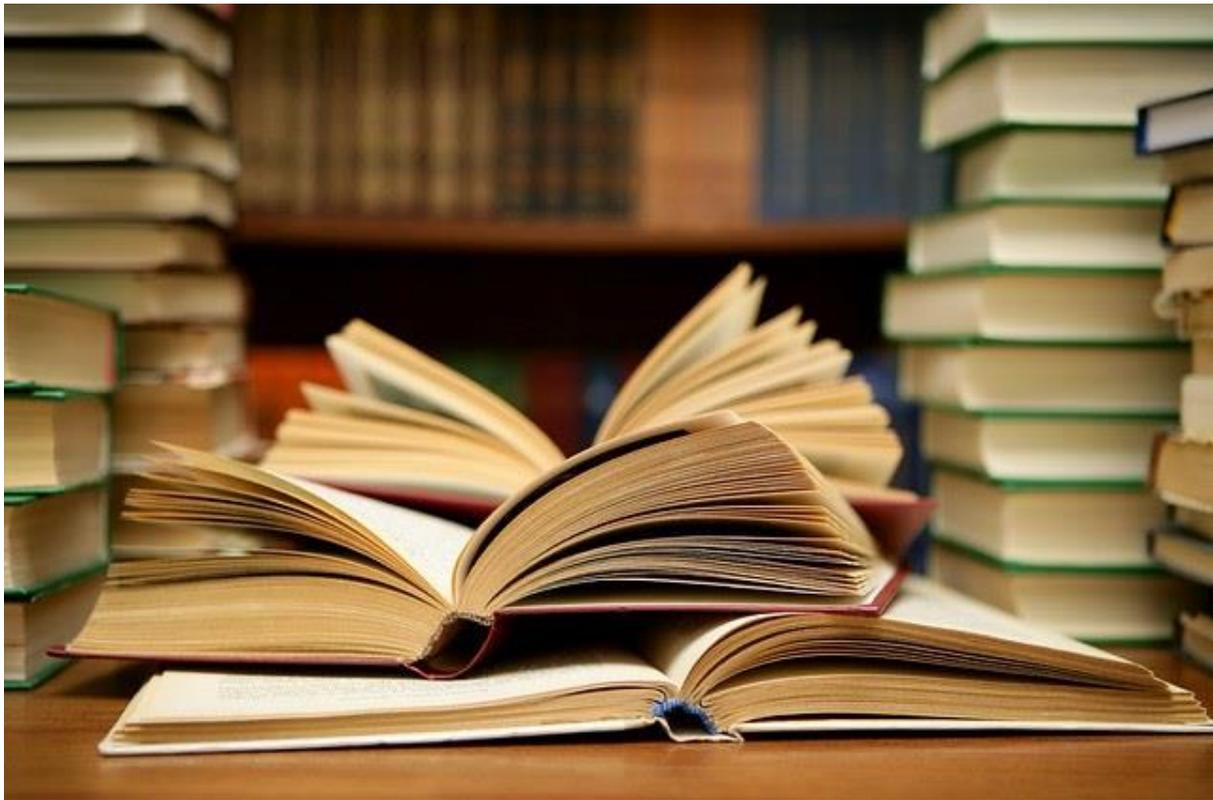
At the end of the Semester teachers of each class award students within their classes awards for Achievement and Endeavour. Students who receive an Achievement award have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement in their class and have displayed all of the wonderful qualities of a successful learner. Students who receive an Endeavour Award are students who show resilience and persistence in learning and who always work hard and strive for the best within their class.

The assembly times will be as follows on Friday 16th July (Term 3, Week 1):

- Year 7: 9:50-10:40am
- Year 8: 11:40am-12:30pm
- Year 9: 12:30-1:30pm
- Year 10: 2:00-2:50pm

This year we will be inviting parents and families to join us in celebrating student success at Belconnen High School. Parents and families will be asked to check in using “Check in Canberra” app, it will be wonderful to be able to share this celebration with families. Parents of students who receive an Achievement and/or Endeavour Award will be sent an invite, so keep an eye out for this at the end of Week 10.

## ENGLISH & HUMANITIES FACULTY NEWS



### English and HaSS

Teachers and students have been busy in English and HaSS and we've seen year 7 designing livable cities, year 10 learning about world conflicts, and so much more! We have a Bell Shakespeare for year 9 and 10 coming up this term, and the usual work happening in classes.

These are the opening lines from some year 9 stories written by Rocko, Josh, Joel and Abby. These stories are an interpretation of *I wandered lonely as a cloud*, written by William Wordsworth in 1802. Please enjoy these writing samples!

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### Aimlessly

I wandered lonely as a cloud, my ears filled with the varying noises of a crowded, cluttered city. The rushed but kind tone of a mother who needs to get somewhere hastily, while also managing each and every need of her children. The harsh crying of a disgruntled baby that nobody likes to hear, but everyone is used to. The gentle rustling of a piece of rubbish rolling across the ground, that everyone assumes someone less busy than themselves will pick up and throw away. The quick, even footsteps

of some kind of businessman on their way to work. I thought to myself how strange it was, that even though I was surrounded by people, I felt isolated from the entire world.

### **I Wandered Lonely As A Cloud**

*“The saddest moment is when the person who gave you the best memory becomes a memory.”*

“Where are we going to go now?” My sister had asked me later that night.

“I don’t know,” I replied, sitting down while observing the fire that had roared in the night. Although my mother was gone, I still had a family.

--

I had sat down in a cart connected to the horse.

**“Do it.”** The voice said repeatedly.

This time, the voice was louder than before, echoing in my head. “I’m going to visit my sister one last time. After all, she was the family that I had left.” I had muttered to myself quietly, making sure that the person driving couldn’t hear me at the back.

Something was wrong. I needed help, but I didn’t want it. It was embarrassing to ask for help. What if everyone shrugged off my problems? What if I got told to deal with it like a man?

### **The Field of dreams**

#### **Southern Chicago: 19:28**

Around this time each day you can hear the couple in the unit across from me yelling and the odd gunshot a couple blocks down. When I first moved into this neighbourhood I was glad to have a roof over my head but not so much anymore. My landlord loans me cash for food and other necessities but the interest is 25% of the original sum, so everything I earn I have to put towards paying my loan back. It's an infinite circle.

### **Flower Crowns**

My name is Alysia. In my world, there are three kingdoms of magic: Cyprian (Fire), Gabrian (Stone) and Florian (Life). The kingdoms of Cyprian and Gabrian have been at war for thousands of years. After each battle, the people of Florian, otherwise known as Healers, go to the battleground to bring peace to it once more. This includes burying bodies, putting out fires, clearing rocks and helping all the plants to grow back, strong and healthy. I am part of the Florian Healers and, although I have only been helping for a few months, have a natural gift with controlling my magic. This is a story of the day I started looking at the world in a very different way.

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“Alysia!”

My eyes snap open. Sitting up abruptly I see my little sister staring anxiously at me. “Ellis, are you okay,” I ask, swinging my legs out of bed and placing a hand on her cheek. Looking through the window across the room, I see the sky just starting to turn milky with the coming dawn. “Why are you up so early?”

“I’m fine,” she insists, stepping out of my reach and shaking her head. “There was another battle last night and the Healers wanted you.”

“Really,” I ask, shocked. “A battle during the night?”

## CONNECTING TO COUNTRY



### **Knowing Country - Year 7 Indigenous Science Project**

Wiradjuri man Adam Shipp, knowledgeable in the Ngunnawal plant uses, with permission, is visiting all the Year 7 Science classes. Depending on the weather the students will either have Adam Shipp in the classroom or an excursion up on the Pinnacle. Thank you to Mrs Sharma for organising this important Cultural Integrity unit in the Year 7 science classes.



In Oliver Billington and Kynan Thompson's Woodwork classes they have been creating boomerang designs that Darren Rix, Kai's pop and Gurnai man has made for the classes. We would like to thank Darren Rix and Wynetta Rix for all of their time and effort in this wonderful community Cultural Integrity project.



### **Indigenous Garden Update**

Belconnen High School has had great success in the *Bunnings State Project - Working with Schools*. The project is to instigate the structural change to the Indigenous Garden slope, give us new Indigenous plants and update and enhance the area around the Lone Pine tree. This will be a combined Anzac area, Indigenous Garden and artwork for the 50th Anniversary of Belconnen High School. The total project is worth \$1800 dollars with representatives from every Bunnings store in the ACT coming to work with Verdelle Townsend as Activity Organiser.

Term 2 news on the Indigenous Garden. In Week 1 on Monday and Tuesday our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and SRC students worked together with Julie Marshall our P&C President and Verdelle Townsend from Bunnings and the Bunnings management team. Monday, our day students along with Verdelle and her team stabilized the slope with drainage channels and

the secondary day was planting Indigenous plants and updating the Lone Pine and creating a more formal memorial.

In the Connecting to Country classes we showcased the Community Project by applying the 8 Ways of learning to understand the importance of community based projects. The students focused on the history of all the groups coming together and overcoming difficulties to plant up an Indigenous Garden.

We would like to thank all the students involved. They worked tirelessly to finish the Indigenous Garden. Special thank you to Verdelle Townsend and all the Bunnings Team for their fantastic effort, P&C President Julie Marshall with her family who worked tirelessly on all stages on the Indigenous Garden, you did weave your magic. Many thanks to Scott Moore for keeping the water up to the newly planted Indigenous plants.



### **Walking on Country - Black Mountain Walk**

The ACT Directorate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Section hosted a Cultural Integrity walk around Black Mountain with Wiradjuri man Adam Shipp. Adam's expert knowledge on Ngunnawal plants and their traditional uses. He has been given permission from the Ngunnawal Elders to share some knowledge around the plants. Black Mountain is a Grassy Box woodland. It regularly has Cultural burns and the diversity of plant species are broad as evidenced on the walk. A number of our Cultural Integrity team joined the walk including Nat Ikin, Josh White, Janet Cooke, Tessa Barbour, Kasie Ryan and Anne O'Neill.





### Connecting to Country

Jonathan Jones a Wiradjuri Kamilaroi artist In the Connecting to Country classes we completed a Bugong Moth Project where the classes worked as a community on tessellated the Bugong moths in an art project taking photos.



### Introducing Josh White to Connecting to Country



Josh has joined Belconnen High School this term teaching PE and Connecting to Country. He has finished his Secondary Education degree majoring in PE and Indigenous Studies. We welcome Josh as a fantastic asset to our school. He has already made a big difference in joining the Cultural Integrity team and working with the Buroinjin teams.

### **Buroinjin Update**

The Buroinjin teams were formed with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students led by Josh White and Tessa Barbour and were all ready to play the Buroinjin Gala Day on Tuesday of Week 3 and the rain came and the day had to be postponed. More details as the new date is given to us.

### **Cultural Integrity in Learning Areas**

During term 2 Science staff and the Maths staff came together at two workshops to further their understanding of Teaching with Cultural Integrity as a professional Learning with Anne O'Neill. We discussed protocols, appropriate resources and deepened knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, languages and cultures. We focused on selection of resources specific to the learning areas. A third workshop was held with the Support Staff, Maree Hardwicke initiated the session on understanding Cultural Integrity in the Administration setting.

I invite you to visit the following site AIATSIS Ngunnawal Welcome to Country where Jude Barlow Ngunnawal Elder will explain the Welcome to Country, Acknowledgement of Country and the Importance of Country.

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/welcome-country#:~:text=Ngunnawal%20Elder%20Jude%20Barlow%20gives,so%20do%20not%20harm%20them.>



**NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK**



National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful [1967 referendum](#), and the [High Court Mabo decision](#) respectively.

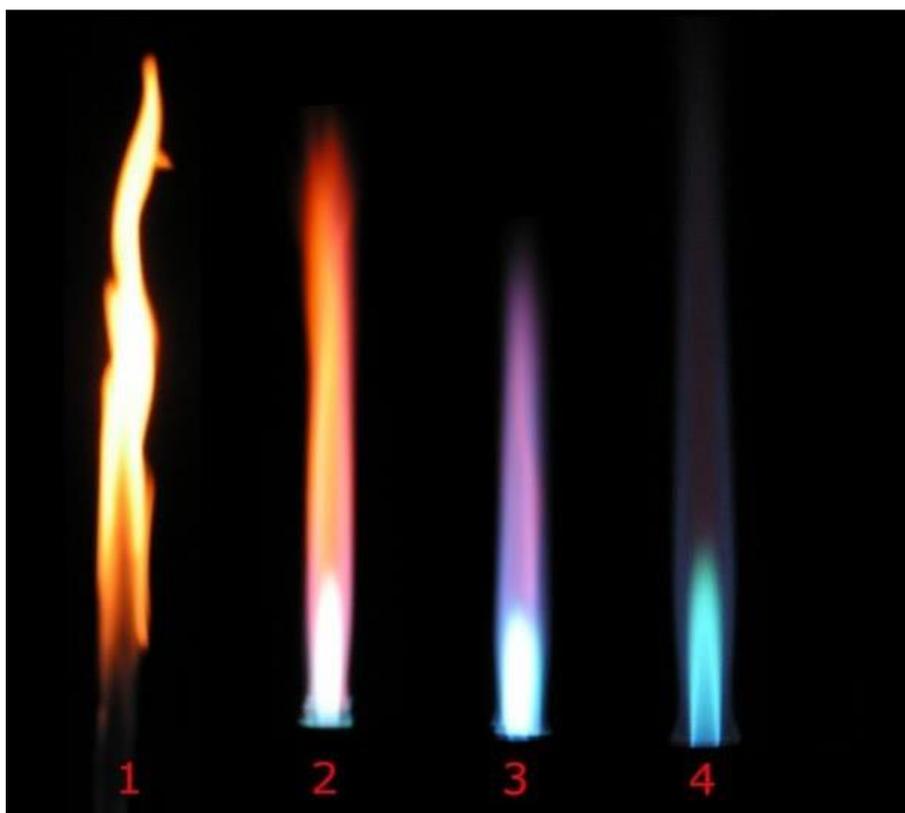
Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

#### **A BRIEF HISTORY**

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World’s Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia’s major faith communities. In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia’s first National Reconciliation Week. In 2001, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation. In the same year, approximately 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of National Reconciliation Week-and subsequently across bridges in cities and towns-to show their support for reconciliation. Today, National Reconciliation Week is celebrated in workplaces, schools and early learning services, community organisations and groups, and by individuals Australia-wide. Find out more information and events that are being held in Canberra during Reconciliation week <https://nrw.reconciliation.org.au/about-nrw/>

The Belconnen High School Community we are embedding Cultural Integrity into all areas of our school and not leaving the recognition to one focus week. We do this in many ways from Connecting to Country classes to building an Indigenous Garden to Walking on Country in the Year 7 Science classes to songs in the Music classes and many other ways. Our Reconciliation Week Assembly will be held on Week 7 Tuesday 1st June 12:30 - 1:30pm. Please ring through to the front office if you would like to attend. We must have numbers due to COVID restrictions. Parents and families will be asked to check in using “Check in Canberra” app.

## MATHS & SCIENCE NEWS



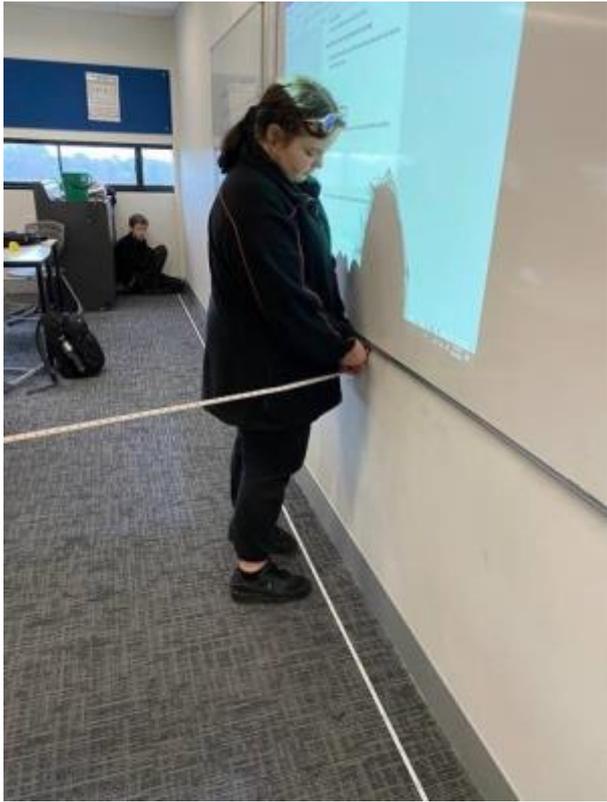
### Maths:

As we reach the middle of the term our students are working hard demonstrating their learning and working towards Assessment. You will notice your child come home with Assignments or Test Preparation over the next couple of weeks. A good way to support them is to get them to check their Google Calendar to see upcoming due dates. Students may also have work set for them using Education Perfect, this is a great online programme to allow students the opportunity to practice skills that are learnt in class.

Our year 9's are working Algebra and Numbers, covering topics like Scientific Notation, Index Laws and Expanding. Some of our classes like to take the opportunity to use our moveable walls to allow students to work in small groups spread across classes like Ms Morris' class.



Miss McKay's class were given a real abstract challenge of using Scientific Notation to represent how many M&M's it would take to fill a classroom. Groups of students all came up with very different problem solving steps to approach the problem.

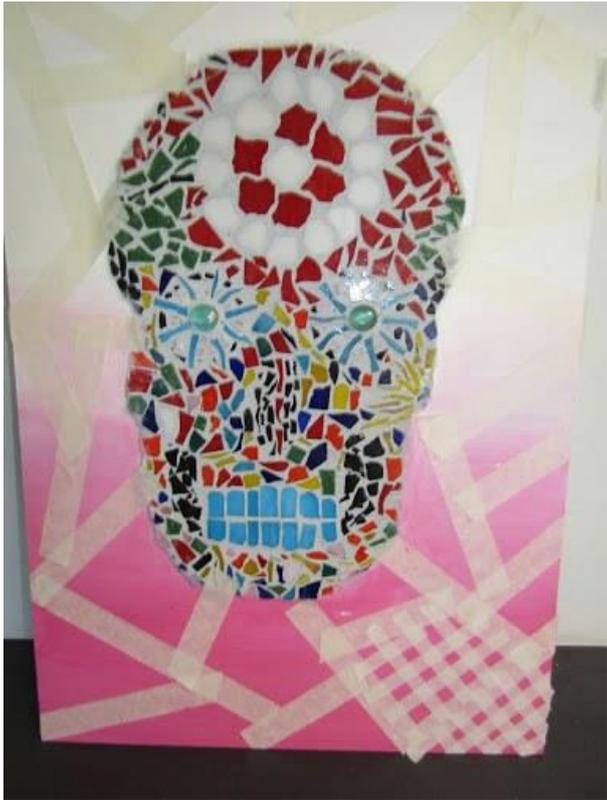


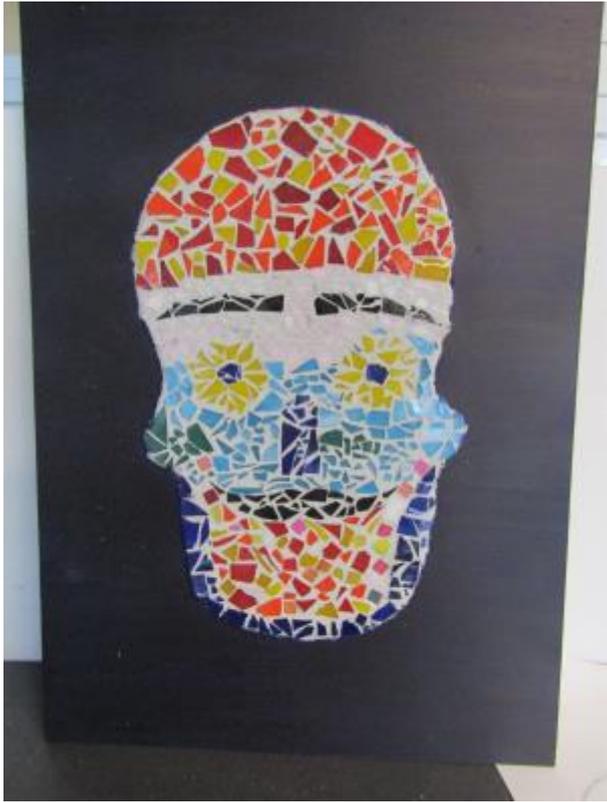
## ARTS & TECHNOLOGY FACULTY NEWS

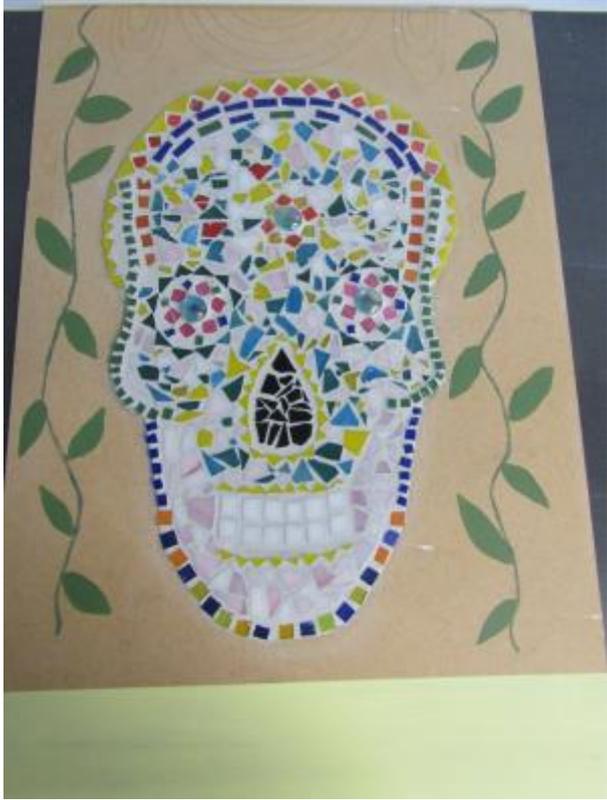


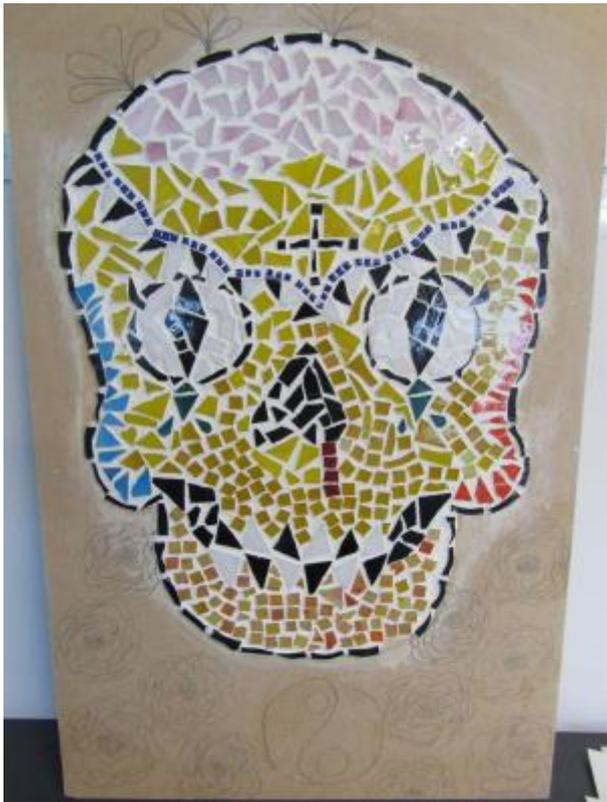
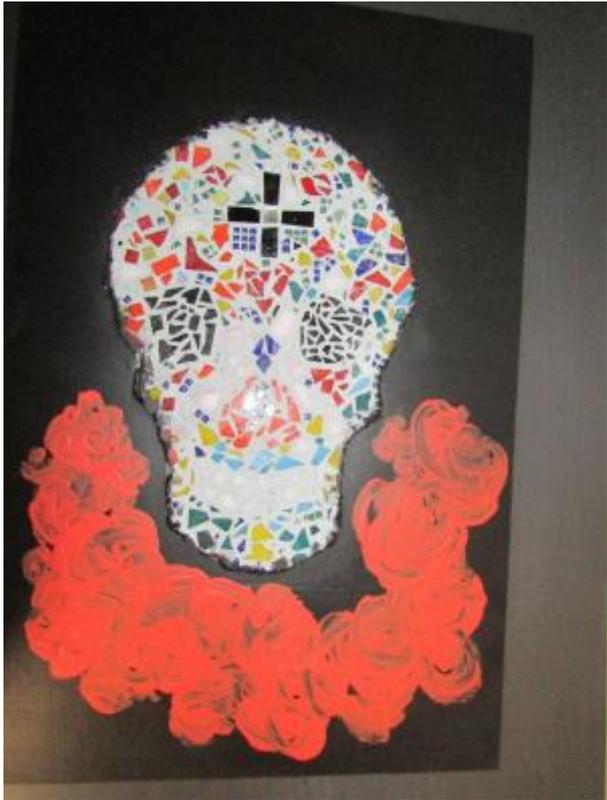
### **Art Around the World**

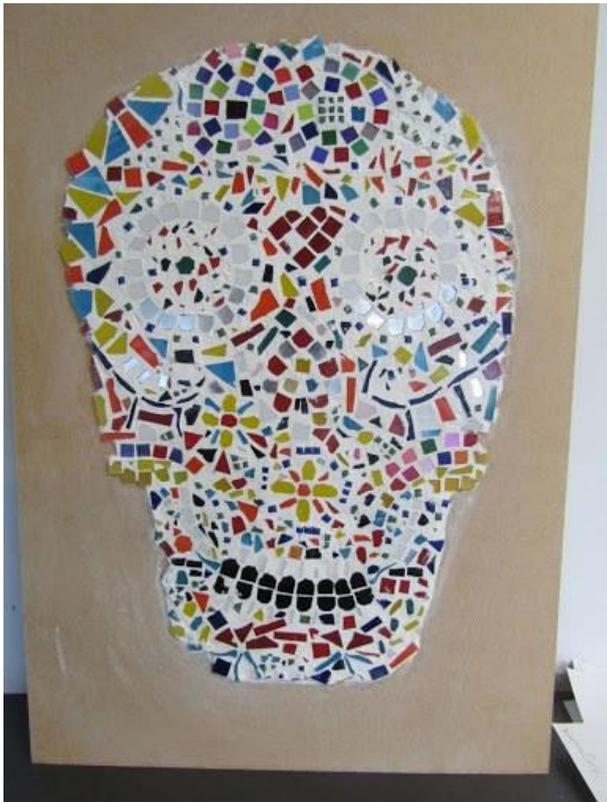
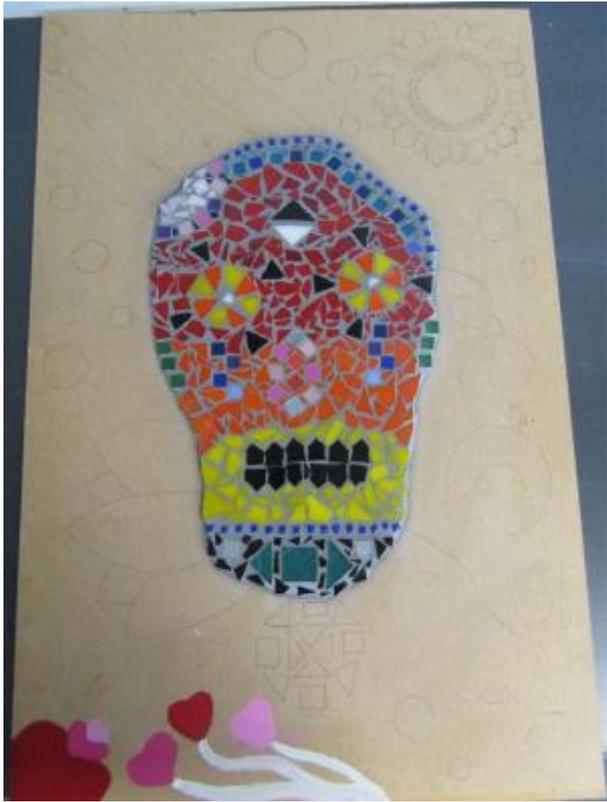
Students are completing their next piece of work inspired by the Mexican festival *Dia De Muertos*. The class are combining traditional Mosaic practice with Mexican Sugar Skulls. I have been very impressed with their artistic designs and attention to detail. I look forward to seeing the end result in the weeks ahead.

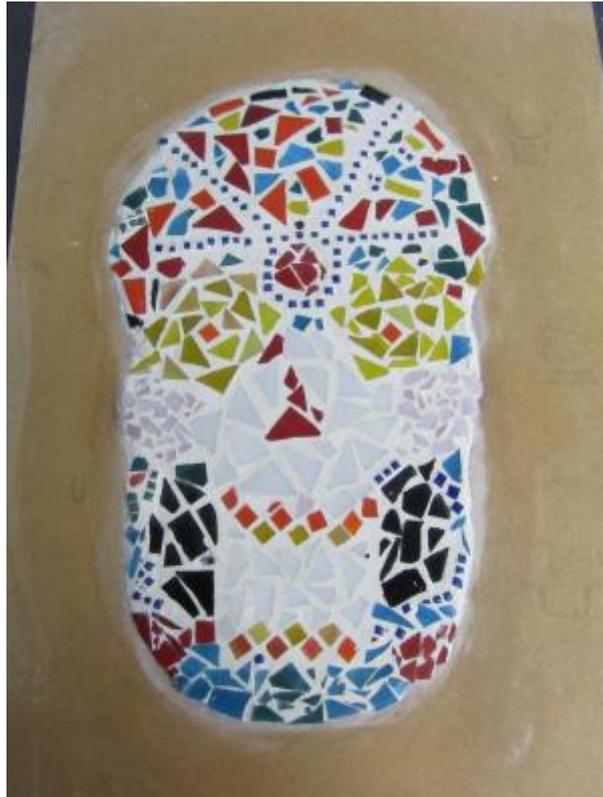












### **Year 10 Building and Construction**

Students have recently completed the CIT Bridge Building competition where students are given set material with the task of building the strongest bridge. Students worked collaboratively in groups and all bridges were tested until failure to determine maximum carrying weight. The strongest bridge held an astonishing 99kgs.





## Sculpture

This term Yr 9/10 students are working through the multi-stage casting process, creating portraits of the human form, modelling in clay in the first stage. These clay models will eventually be cast in concrete through the creation of a plaster one-piece mould.

Extension student, Ryan Dau, has finished his clay model this week, *'The Armoured Titan,'* an anime character from a favoured Japanese tv show. This will be cast through the creation of the more challenging two-piece plaster mould.

\*Extension students are students taking an elective for a second time, taking advantage of the opportunity to expand on their skillset and explore personal interests.



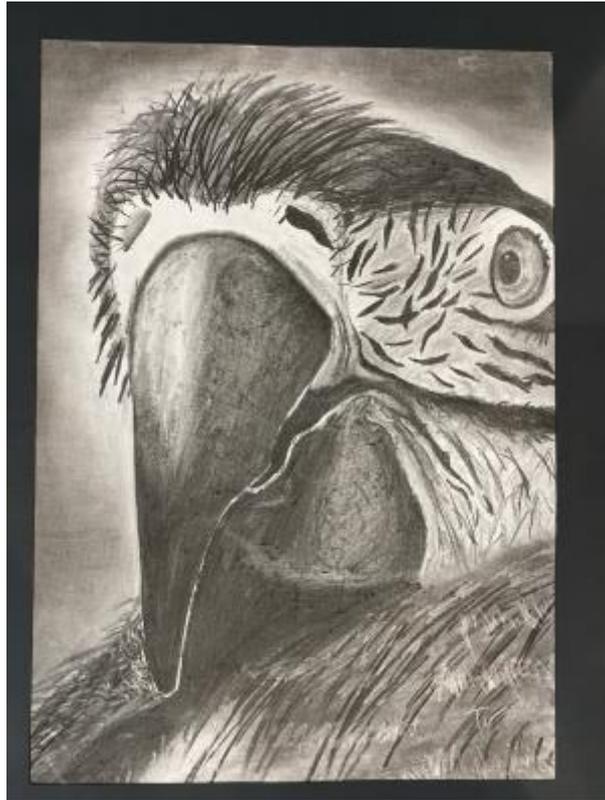
### **Studio Art**

Last term Yr 9/10 students worked on their first major project, 'Self-Portrait in Animal Form.' Students were asked to self-reflect on their own character and personality before selecting an animal that also portrays these same, or similar, traits.

Criteria included:

- Drawing medium of graphite or charcoal
- Paper size of A2 or A1
- A series or sketches exploring drawing styles and various compositions
- A supporting artist statement

Year 9 student, Taylah Vandermeer, has drawn 'Macaw' using willow charcoal on A2. Her entire body of work, including her artist statement and accompanying sketches, is currently on display in the school's front office.



### **Drama**

Year 7 & 8 Drama classes are doing their Media Unit. Year 7 Media are finishing off their PBL films and Year 9/10 are working on their group films



### **Year 9/10 Drama - Children's Theatre**

Belconnen students performed to 200 early learning students at Southern Cross ELC in Week 4. The play written by the students was called 'The Magic Word' and teaches the importance of manners. We hope to perform the play to Weetangera Primary in Week 7. Our performers did an amazing job engaging the audience, with everyone singing in the final act!



## PRODUCTION NEWS



### **Not Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure**

Production rehearsals are now on our stage with all of our musicians and no scripts! Our sets and props are nearly all completed, our Hair and Make up students are designing and refining and our Tech Crew have all their cues ready and waiting. Week 9 term 3 we are performing to Belconnen, our Primary Schools and our Parents. It is all excellently coming together!





### **Belconnen Year 6 Information Night**

The Production band performed AC/DC's TNT to kick off the Information Night. We had over 240 families come to meet our teachers and familiarise themselves with the school. AC/DC performed in the ACT in 1975 and it was fantastic to have it performed again.



## PE FACULTY NEWS



### **Athletics Carnival:**

On Thursday 1st April (Week 10, Term 1) we held our 2021 Athletics Carnival at Charnwood Ovals. It was outstanding to see so many students in their house colours and participating in all events. It was our highest participation rate in a couple of years, congratulations to all students who attended on the day.

We would like to congratulate Sophie Imhoff in Year 8 for breaking the 14years Girls record for the 100m Sprint, this record has been held since 1984. Well Done Sophie!

Our Champion House on the day was O'Neill on 1259 points.

**CHAMPION HOUSE O'Neill** on 1259 points

2nd Place Thorpe on 884 points

3rd Place Freeman on 765 points

4th Place - Perkins on 741 points





### **2021 Age Champions:**

During our Week 3 Assembly we celebrated students' success during our Swimming and Athletics carnivals in Term 1. Congratulations to the 2021 Age Champions.

### **2021 Swimming Age Champions:**

12 years Age Champions - Rohan Imhoff and Charlotte Sainsberry

13 years Age Champions - Liam McRae and Hannah Maddocks

14 years Age Champions - Dean Morgan and Ava Rollason

15 years Age Champions - Hamish Saunders and Charlea Pritchard

16 years Age Champions - Geordie Ringvall and Nina Burch-Pulley.

### **2021 Athletics Age Champions:**

12 years Age Champions - Rohan Imhoff and Izzy Chalker

13 years Age Champions - Tobias Drummond-Templeton and Claire Hinds

14 years Age Champions - Cooper Wilkinson and Sophie Imhoff

15 years Age Champions - Andy Camp-Liddiard and Charlia Hodgson

16 years Age Champions - Angus Howell and Erika Kennedy.





### **School Sport:**

Term 1 was busy for Belconnen High in the Sporting arena competing in Basketball, Softball and Touch Football Gala Days. All coaches have reported that teams represented Belconnen High with great sportsmanship and determination. Congratulations to all students involved.

### **Softball:**

The Boys Softball team placed 2nd overall in the ACT. They had some huge wins on the day and played really well as a team. Outstanding effort by the following students:

Cooper Wilkinson, Will Dyer, Tom Hogan, Izaak Custodio, Hamish Saunders, Ethan Harris, Ishmam Islam, Lucas Brown, Sam Griffin and Mitch Platten.

### **Touch Football:**

The Boys 9/10 Touch Football team who made it to the ACT Finals. They placed 4th overall within the ACT and had some competitive games at the tournament. Congratulations boys and thanks to Mr Harris and Mr Mudie for coaching.

### **Volleyball:**

The girls North Side Secondary Volleyball Championships were held at Lyneham Hockey Centre on Friday 7 May. This year there were a record number of schools entered and Belconnen High School was represented in both the 7/8 and 9/10 girl's competition. For many of our students it was their first experience competing in a round robin Volleyball tournament and they have come away with a valuable experience. All the students are to be congratulated for their efforts, as they were a credit to the school by playing their best and displaying excellent sportsmanship during each game.

The 7/8 girls team excelled on the day playing some amazing points and consistently serving the ball in. They made their way through to the semi-final, narrowly getting beaten, and missing out on progressing through to the Grand Final by 2 points. It was a very exciting game to watch, well done.

If any students at Belconnen High School would like to try Volleyball, and develop their skills Ms Barbour is running afternoon training sessions for Volleyball in the school gym each Monday. Permission notes are required and available from the Humanities/English staffroom.



### **PE Classes:**

This Term all classes will be participating in a Fitness and Cross Country unit. Students are working on improving their current individual fitness levels through fun group activities and completing a journal on the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

### **Health Units Term 2:**

Year 7 - Identity and Belonging

Year 8 - Drugs and Alcohol Awareness

Year 9 - Risk Management and Basic First Aid

Year 10 - Respectful Relationships





### ***Outdoor Education***

**Year 9** : Coming off a successful Ocean Sports unit in Term 1, the Year 9's this term will be starting off with a ropes unit for the first 5 weeks and then swap to a bushwalking unit for the last 5 weeks of term. They will be accessing our own rock wall to complete their practical assessment, covering climbing techniques, safety and belaying. In the classroom students will be spending their time tying knots. We will be participating in a "knot off" where students will have to tie 10 climbing knots in an allocated time period and they will also be creatively designing their very own knot board. Our team building and initiative activities will be based around communication and technique. Below is one of our first activities, the "egg toss". It's all about good technique and unfortunately some learnt the hard way how not to catch an egg. Ethan and Mack were our champion egg throwers





## LEARNING SUPPORT NEWS



This term, students in life skills have been learning about “healthy habits”.

The students have revamped and re-seeded our school garden beds, ready for the winter.

The reseedling will allow students to care for vegetables throughout the semester, whilst learning about ways to compost, garden and grow produce.

Students also created their very own food item. Within this task, students developed an understanding about packaging, health star ratings and certain food groups.

This creative task was a huge success and the students thoroughly enjoyed creating their own tasty treat.

Students are currently working hard to host a Smoothie morning tea for the teachers at the school in week 8.

Students will design, shop for, and make their very own smoothies.

This task develops students understanding on;

- Work place functionality
- Cooperation
- Food health and safety
- Customer service
- Marketing
- Shopping
- Money

Both staff and students are really enjoying this task and are excited about week 8s stall.





## BELCONNEN LEARNING COMMONS NEWS



## Student ICT Support Desk

Now available in the BLC , Break 1 and Break 2



2 - Supersmile Awards

## CONGRATULATIONS

Brava for Bravo!

The Bravo awards are off to a dynamic start this term! In line with our school's Positive Behaviours of Learning (PBL) philosophy, students are being recognised for their Respectful, Responsible and Learner actions and attitudes. Each student has received their own Bravo card which is stamped by a staff member at the school when a student is seen to be respectful, responsible or learning. Each stamp earns individual points, and house points, with the points accumulating towards prizes, special activities, and recognition at assemblies.

The Belconnen Bravo system has been in place for three weeks and, collectively, students have been awarded over 3000 points!

Students who have received certificate status will be receiving those shortly.

PBL team.

**Congratulations to Daniel Gillespie and Lachlan Gleeson on being awarded the Bronze PBL awards.**

## **STUDENT SERVICES**



### **YAMS Program for Year 9 Students. Week 8,9,10**

As part of a Directorate mental health initiative Year 9 Students will partake in 5 sessions of specific mental health training in Weeks 8 to 10.

**Youth Aware of Mental health, also known as YAM**, is a school-based programme for young people ages 13 to 17 in which they learn about and discuss mental health.

YAM uses experiential learning to explore six central themes; 1. What is mental health? 2. Self-help advice 3. Stress and crisis 4. Depression and suicidal thoughts 5. Helping a friend in need 6. Who to contact?

YAM sessions include role play and discussion, a booklet of mental health resources for students to keep, and 6 posters summarising booklet content which are displayed in the classroom during sessions.

**YAM** is a comprehensive program promoting mental health and addressing a range of concerns common among adolescents. YAM increases mental health literacy; problem solving skills and encourages help seeking among students.

YAM actively involves the students and encourages them to identify how they can help a friend in need, aiming to strengthen the relationships between students, benefiting the broader class and school climate. The program provides an opportunity to share information about mental health, general health, and community resources suitable for young people.

YAM is run as part of Lifespan, in partnership with the Black Dog Institute (BDI)



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Offering a free and confidential counselling service.  
Assisting & supporting parents with ideas about raising children.

Interpreters available

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6287 3833  
9AM-5PM  
FREE TELEPHONE COUNSELLING



### **Messengers Program 2021**

Messengers is an arts-based youth support program for vulnerable young people operating across the A.C.T. First funded through a suicide prevention initiative in January 2000, Messengers has provided young people from the age of 12 years a creative respite from the pressures of navigating adolescence.

Messengers offers weekly group programs in which participants develop a range of skills across artistic mediums including visual, performing, and other creative arts. The program is aimed at young people who are experiencing mild-moderate mental health issues. Messengers' programs are specifically designed to improve social and psychological wellbeing via targeted participation in the arts.

Messengers is collaboratively facilitated between Tuggeranong Arts Centre and CRCS Belconnen and the Belconnen Arts Centre.

Messengers is co facilitated by Kelsey Van Der Tuin, Support Worker from Tuggeranong Arts Centre and professional Artist Sui who works in multiple mediums from glass work, glass blowing, ceramics, pottery, and Industrial sculpture art.

Term 1 2021 four Belconnen High School Yr. 10 Students Breana Harris, Caelyn Duffy, Key Scholl Bush and Jamie Woodbridge have been attending Messengers program currently held at Belconnen Arts Centre every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm.

The program has been a great support for the four students in enabling them to pursue their artistic endeavours it has provided them a positive social, safe environment for them to express themselves through art. It provides them a foundation to help with coping with their mental health and support their social and emotional wellbeing.

It has given them the opportunity to engage and socialize with other young people from surrounding Belconnen schools which creates connection and new experiences.

The students have been provided the opportunity to work in many artistic mediums including drawing, sketching, stencils, pottery, and inclusive creative arts activities. These activities

create a natural way for the young people to engage in conversations and connect with other young people and the facilitators of Messengers.

All four students have attended every week and look forward to going and speak positively of their experiences at the program.

Belconnen High School will continue attending Messengers (Belconnen Arts Centre) in Term 2, 3 & 4.



### **Term 1 2021**

The Young Women's Leadership program is a free eight-week program, for girls, including female-identifying and non-binary students, in Years 9 and 10. It focuses on helping young women build a strong connection to schooling through an integrated learning program.

Through a series of two-hour workshops, combining knowledge-based and interactive activities, the participants are provided with the opportunity to identify and build on existing skills, explore topics such as identity, resilience, body confidence, self-care, respectful relationships, consent and leadership in order to achieve their potential at school and beyond.

The program was designed to engage with young women in a safe supportive space to discuss a myriad of different topics that affect women.

The program aims to:

- build skills and confidence to assist young women in their journey through high school and beyond
- support them to identify and achieve their goals
- engage young women in activities that are designed to create awareness into who they are
- encourage future aspirations
- foster an environment that promotes participants to question the norms and expectations that may conflict with their aspirations.

7 Year 10 Students from Belconnen High School participated in the "Young Women's Leadership Program" it was facilitated by Louisa (Youth Worker from CRCS Belconnen) with Katherine McLellan as the teacher supporting.

Prior to the program commencing each student was given the opportunity to meet with Louisa one on one. They were told the concept of the program, the topics and subjects that would be discussed.

It provided the students the opportunity to hear what the program would offer them and let them make the decision whether they wanted to participate.

The students attended and participated in the program every week, they spoke highly of the activities, topics, conversations and experiences they had while attending the program.

The students got to choose the final activity (Pole Dancing) which was held in the last week of Term 1 on Wednesday from 4-5pm at Aerial Pole Academy in Belconnen. The girls said they really enjoyed the Pole dancing.

They attended Belconnen Youth Centre (CRCS) for an after party/ceremony to receive their certificates. The student's parents also attended the event

The Belconnen Youth Centre provided pizza and the students played Just Dance (Video game) together.









## ***LEADERSHIP & PEER SUPPORT***

The Year 10 leadership class are in full swing term 2 presenting their initiative activities to the class. This is in preparation to deliver them to the year 7's in CARE to keep building and fostering relationships. Below are some pictures of the "Marshmallow Challenge" and the "Chromebook hover" problem solving and team building activities run by Sienna and Aisha. This term there are some great leadership opportunities offered to our students, including Year 6 transitions in Week 3, where some of our leaders will revisit their old stomping ground with some current year 7 students to impart their wisdom on what it's like to be a Belconnen High School student. We also have a wonderful project coming up in Week 6 for Reconciliation Week, where the Year 10's will facilitate an artwork with their CARE class that symbolises repetition of design. We look forward to seeing what they come up with. Ms Ikin.





## ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP

At the end of last year we awarded two recipients with a Rotary Scholarship. One of those recipients, Tahlia Baker chose to use her money to purchase an iPad which will help her to develop her skills in the creative arts. Tahlia shows an incredible work ethic, a commitment to excellence and an eye for creativity. We wish her all the best in her pursuits in the field of Art.



## CYBERSPACE



## eSafety By Design



"We all take responsibility for our actions online and we stay safe by acting safe"

This includes:

- making sure only people I know can see me online.
- make a more secure password and change privacy settings
- don't talk to strangers
- think before I post, comment or like



What steps will you take?

BE SAFE

BE CAREFUL

BE NICE

Developed with students from Farrer Primary & Lynetham High School



I will use ICT access to the internet responsibly and respectfully to ensure I do not cause harm to myself, others or my School.



## FINANCE NEWS REGARDING CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS:



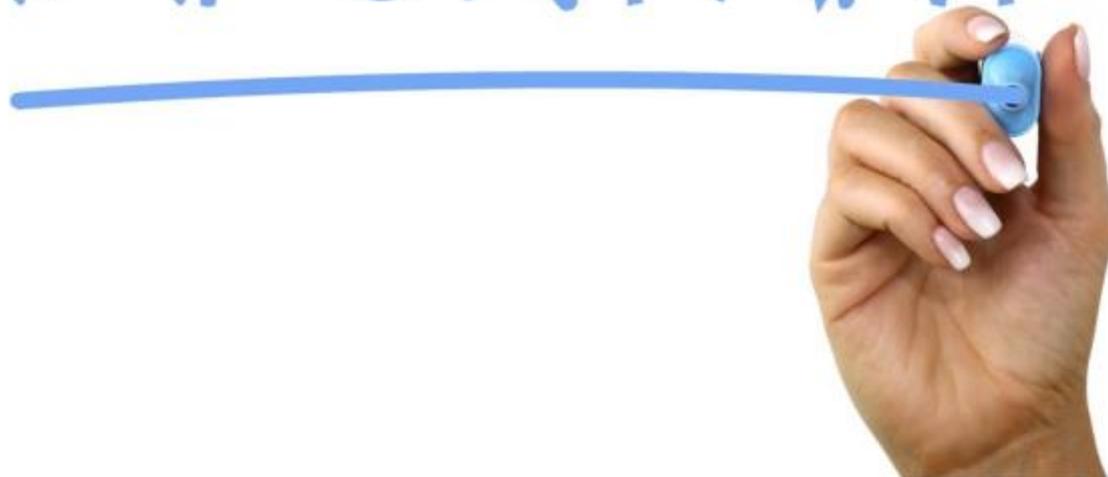
### CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS

Due to unprecedented times with Covid 19, Belconnen High School will only be accepting contactless payments until further notice. We welcome your payments via QuickWeb which can be located on the Payments tab on our [Webpage](#).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this process for future payments.

## IMPORTANT - FAMILY CONTACT DETAILS:

# IMPORTANT



It is important that the school maintains an accurate and up to date record of family/carer email addresses, home addresses and telephone numbers for all student. Please let us know if there are changes to your contact details by sending an email to [info\\_BLCH@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:info_BLCH@ed.act.edu.au) or phone the front office on 6142 1690. We are always grateful to receive this information.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING:

### **STUDENT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT**

Schools collect information about injuries and incidents, which occur at school or on school organised activities, on behalf of the Education and Training Directorate. Some of the information may be personal information as defined in the Privacy Act 1988 and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997. The information is usually included in a Student Accident/Incident Report together with any accompanying witness statements or the Notification of a Critical Incident.

### **AMBULANCE TRANSPORT**

Ambulance transport for students at school This information is from the ACT Department of Education policy on Student accidents/incidents:

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during approved school activities within the ACT. Free ambulance cover does not apply to students who attend Jervis Bay School.

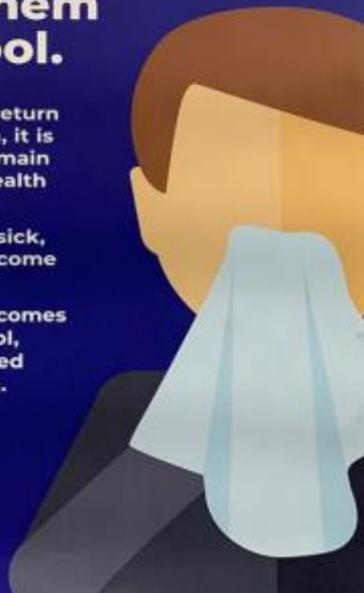
## COVID-19 NEWS



### **If your child is sick, don't bring them to school.**

As our children return to the classroom, it is important we remain vigilant about health and hygiene.

- If your child is sick, they must not come to school.
- If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be asked to collect them.



## UNIFORM SHOP NEWS



Uniform shopfront is open every Thursday 2:30-3pm. EFTPOS available. Questions, requests, comments via [uniform.shop.bhs@gmail.com](mailto:uniform.shop.bhs@gmail.com) any time.

## CANTEEN NEWS



Download the app and register with [FlexiSchools](#)

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Olympic Changemaker Award:

Over the past years, the Australian Olympic Change-Maker program has showcased the incredible work being achieved by young Australians. From major projects, to small acts of positivity, we have seen the impact youth can have on their communities.

Activities undertaken by Change-Makers have included, volunteering at their local sporting clubs, supporting seniors in their community, coaching juniors, organising school activities to promote health and well being.

The Australian Olympic Change-Maker program recognises students who are demonstrating the Olympic spirit through leadership and driving positive change within their community.

Please note:

This award is only eligible to Year 10 students.

All nominations will be taken into consideration by the Executive Team who will determine the final 2 nominations from Belconnen High School.

Those nominations deemed successful will be notified of the next step, which will require the successful students to complete a 1 minute video highlighting their leadership and Olympic Spirit.

If you think your Year 10 child is a worthy candidate please follow the link to complete the nomination form. All nominations will be taken into consideration by the Executive Team who will

determine the final 2 nominations from Belconnen High School.

<https://forms.gle/tYeEg9Y8Xfq2SoiP6>



The poster features the Australian Olympic Change-Maker logo at the top left, which includes a kangaroo and a koala. The main title 'POWER THE CHANGE' is prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below the title, the text 'NOMINATIONS OPEN' is written in white on a yellow background. The background of the poster is dark teal with circular cutouts showing various young people and a virtual meeting. At the bottom, there is a list of benefits for all Change-Makers, a 'FIND OUT MORE' button, and a deadline of 'Nominations close 30 July 2021'.

**AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC CHANGE-MAKER**

**POWER THE CHANGE**

**NOMINATIONS OPEN**

The 2021 program will celebrate young Australians who 'Power the Change'. This is an opportunity to have your students recognised for their fantastic work in creating positive social impact, from major projects to small examples of daily positivity.

Change-Makers will be empowered to connect with other young leaders around the country and share their voice on important issues affecting all Australians through the Olympic Change-Maker forums.

All Change-Makers will receive:

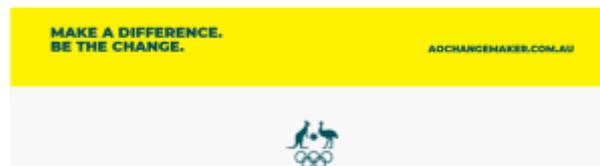
- Invitation to attend a state-wide virtual Olympic Forum
- Certificate of recognition
- Consideration to attend the National Olympic Change-Maker Summit where they will collaborate with other young leaders and Olympians, with attendees selected by a panel of Olympians and;
- Invitation into the Australian Olympic Change-Maker Alumni

**FIND OUT MORE**

Nominations close 30 July 2021

The program provides a unique opportunity for Change-Makers to come together with other like-minded young people from around Australia who are making a difference in their school or community.

The Virtual Forum will provide students with the opportunity to share ideas and be immersed in a unique Olympic experience as well as learning first hand from Olympians.



The banner has a yellow top section with the text 'MAKE A DIFFERENCE. BE THE CHANGE.' and the website 'A0CHANGEMAKER.COM.AU'. The bottom section is white with the Australian Olympic logo (kangaroo, koala, and rings) centered.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.  
BE THE CHANGE.**

A0CHANGEMAKER.COM.AU





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-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or starting next year, attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner)\*, have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment\*\*



the south family

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Find us on Facebook 



\*\*Some types of income and Concessioned payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.  
\*You may also include the partner of a person and FGS, defined as partnership with The South Family, being stated post after local community agreement.  
The program is funded by SDF and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Search www.saverplus.org.au for more information.