

Yarn Up Newsletter

Term 3, 2026



Acknowledgement of Country

St Margaret Mary's community acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land where our school now sits, the Wulgurukaba Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the stories, wisdom and hope for our future.

We also acknowledge the close connections they have had with the Bindal peoples for many thousands of years. Together they have walked and cared for this land since the beginning of time.

Let us reflect on the millions of footprints that travelled the Dreaming pathways and give thanks for their wisdom and knowledge.

Principal's Report



Last night I attended the Year 12 Formal and our Cultural Awareness Leaders Georgia, Kesia and Eva did our Acknowledgement of Country. I am so proud of all of our Graduating Year 12s and pray that the messages of compassion, hope and love that they have gained during their time at the College, stay with them for the future.

Term 3 has been a busy but exciting Term for many of our First Nations' students. Some of the highlights for me have been the two Dance troupes opening our Maggies' Festival of the Arts, the presentation of the Empowered Communities Award for our involvement in the Garbutt Magpies Cup and the presentation of the Bishop Michael Putney Award to Darryle Sam. Congratulations also to Eva Lui who was nominated.

One of our priorities this year has to been to rewrite our Harmony Guide to have a more intentional focus on stamping out racism and discrimination at the College. I offer my thanks to Mr Chris Davis and all members of the Anti-Discrimination Committee for your commitment to this important school improvement strategy.



We are excited to launch the new Building Harmony: Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Racism Policy early next Term with specific lessons for students to occur in Term 1 next year. Thank you to student representatives Afsheen and Eva as well as community members Kath Burke, Angela Marano, Rachel Harrison, Bernadette Anderson, Louise Martin, Vicky Saylor and Jessica Wedrat for you wisdom and counsel. I am taking some Long Service Leave at the start of next Term, but I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Emerging Leaders' Awards Night on Tuesday 3rd November.



Have a great holiday. Kathleen McCarthy



First Nations Team



After the busyness of Terms One and Two, we were expecting Term Three to be a lot less busy. However, this wasn't the case.

We started the Term with our QATSIF Graduation, then followed it up with the NAIDOC celebrations at the Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, Garbutt Magpies AFL Carnival, and a number of Emerging Leaders events, including the Alumni Evening, BLAK Excellence Luncheon and the TCE Year 12 Graduation Liturgy.



Our girls took part in the Maggie's Festival of the Arts, and we will finish the Term with our Year 12 Formal.

This Term also saw our Team being the first recipients of the "Empowered Communities Award" from the Garbutt Magpies AFL Community. We thank Uncle Randall Ross and Pamela Brett for presenting this award to us. It is now prominently displayed on the front desk of our Administration Building for all to see.

For the first time, we had three of our Year 8 students participate in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program, and they had an amazing experience. We are looking forward to entering again next year.

Our First Nations Homework Program has continued to benefit our students, however we will be changing our Compulsory Maths day to Tuesdays next Term. This will give our students an extra tutor to assist them with their Maths, and also allow us to get assistance from the College's Maths Tutorial run by the Maths teachers downstairs.

We acknowledge our 8 Year 12 QATSIF graduates for 2026, and also our 15 students who have applied for the next round.

In Week 2 of next Term, our Emerging Leaders students will attend the annual Emerging Leaders Mental Health & Roadshow Event at the Queensland Country Bank Stadium. This event will have guest speakers helping our students to build resilience and to speak about the management of stress and other Mental Health issues. There are also a number of fun activities that students will undertake.

Our First Nations Team would like to wish all families a safe and happy holiday.



Our Term started with our Emerging Leaders students attending and assisting, the children at the Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, in their NAIDOC celebrations. This was the final time for several of our Senior students who have been a part of this celebration for many years.

We then had the rest of the Term fly as usual, with our continued commitment to the Garbutt Magpies, students attending the Emerging Leaders Showcase, past students coming back to join us at the Alumni Night, QATSIF Graduation, ATSIAP, BLAK Excellence Luncheon, TCE First Nations Graduation Liturgy and the weekly support provided to our students in the Emerging Leaders Homework Program.

Our Emerging Leaders students have had many wonderful opportunities for their Cultural Engagement Tracker this year. What a rich variety of engagements the students have access too!

Don't forget the Emerging Leaders Mental Health & Wellbeing Roadshow on Thursday the 15th of October.

Our First Nations Team will be meeting with members of the TCE Emerging Leaders Project Team to start the vetting process next Term.

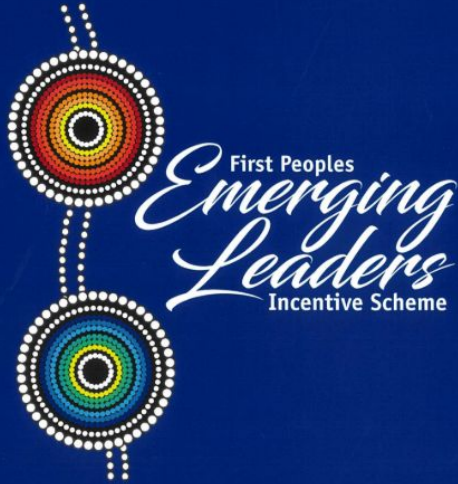


High Absenteeism

School absenteeism is a growing challenge! Consistent attendance is vital for learning, social growth, and emotional health. While frequent absences lead to lower classroom learning and students falling behind in their classwork and assessments.

This is highlighted in the attendance data that shows that students with high absenteeism are more likely to be failing basic subjects such as Maths and English. Two subjects that are vitally important in the Emerging Leaders Program.

Congratulations to all our Emerging Leaders students who attained a 100% RAW Data Attendance including Eva Lui, Cian Lui, Tilly Westwood, Bonnie Mulhall, Sophie Grant, Edie Westwood and Lily Bonner. Enjoy your Yeti Rewards!



Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

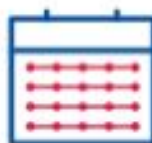
and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

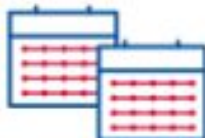
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

QATSIF Graduation 2026

Congratulations to our Year 12 QATSIF students. The QATSIF Graduation is an annual event that recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 12 students.

SMMC Graduates for 2026 were: Lily-Ana Tanner, Amaya Aston, Laylah Kurtz, Destinee Swain, Sarah Dawson, Darylle Sam, Eva Lui and Keisa Bob!



QATSIF Creative Arts Competition

Shelise Scaife has won first place in the 'Weaving and Flora'

Shelise's Art Story

Weaving Our Story Inspired by this year's NAIDOC theme of 50 Years Deadly, a small woven basket took time and care to create, weaving each layer of raffia to build on the next. This represents and pays tribute to the Elders and ancestors who have paved the way before me. Building layer upon layer of culture, knowledge, truth, leadership and identity. Each layer strengthens the following one. The continuous, interconnected lines are a reminder of time passed and the momentum building as we celebrate 50 Years of Deadly. The continuous strength our people have when culture leads and community comes first. The continuous weaving together of our communities, deadly. Weaving together our future, deadly. Weaving our story, deadly.



Holy Spirit Primary School NAIDOC Celebrations



On Friday the 17th of July, 9 of our Year 10 & 12 students did our annual trip to the Holy Spirit Primary School to assist in their NAIDOC celebrations.

The girls joined in the rotations including Face Painting, Weaving, Tattooing and making turtles with the kids.

We thank the Holy Spirit School for welcoming us each year.





GARBUTT MAGPIES

Our Emerging Leaders were invited as volunteers to once again assist with the Garbutt Magpies Cup on Wednesday the 22nd July. Although we only had 7 students attend this year, we are aware that there are more of our families and students who participated in this day. The Garbutt Magpies Cup is an annual educational, cultural, and sporting event hosted by the Garbutt Magpies in Townsville. It's a primary school AFL competition designed to promote cultural awareness and increase youth participation in Australian rules football. A 'Shout Out' to Amaya Aston, Tilly Westwood, Mackenzie Fogg, Taya Zaro, Sadie Desatge and Edie Westwood for volunteering.





We were also honoured to be the first recipients of the newly developed Empowered Communities Award. Thank you so much to Garbutt Magpies!



Academic Awards

It was great to see a number of our First Nations students receiving Academic Awards at the Assembly held earlier in the Term.

These awards recognised students whose Semester 1 Report reflects outstanding achievement through one or both of the following criterias:

100% A Grades across All Subjects and/or
100% A Grades in Application to Learning
(Investment in Learning)



Congratulations to Emma Brooks,
Kendall Sweeney, Isabella Garcia,
Shaniqua Ahwang and Jorja Neucom.

DATSIAP Visit

We welcomed Jessica Wedrat from Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, and Multiculturalism to the College earlier in the Term.

Jessica spoke to several of our Year 12 students about the assistance they can provide to the students to gain employment once leaving school.

Thank you Jess for all of your support to our students.



Destinee Swain, Dior Daisy and Keisa Bob with Jessica Wedrat.

Maggie's' Festival of the Arts

What a wonderful night this was!!! We are so proud of the creativity and talent of our SMMC Community.

The night started with our amazing Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Dance Troupe proceeding the Acknowledgement of Country.

Our First Nation students were outstanding through all their different roles on the night. We are extremely proud of all of our amazingly creative and talented students.

Shout Out to all our Cultural Dancers and also to Charlotte Kirkpatrick, Dakota Parker, Chanel Houston, Jorja and Matilda Neucom and Violet Ziehmer! You girls were outstanding!





Our Amazing Cultural Dance Troupes & Musicians





Matilda Neucom



Chanel Houston, Eden Lui, Dakota Parker and Jorja Neucom



Violet Ziehmer



Charlotte Kirkpatrick

Seniors Luncheon

Our Hospitality students attended and served at the Annual Seniors Luncheon, one of the most anticipated events on Townsville's Seniors' Social calendar.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their professionalism and hospitality skills while helping celebrate and honour the seniors in our Community.

Shout Out to First Nations students Amaziah Ahwing and Cyntara Cairns who were a part of this group.



Women in Leadership Summit

Louise Martin was one of seven Emerging Leaders Coordinators selected to attend The Hatchery's Women in Leadership Summit in Melbourne (Naarm). This was an amazing opportunity for professional development, where many strong and influential women shared their stories of persistence, resilience and determination which has enabled them to lead with integrity, knowledge and kindness. Guest speakers included Jacinda Adern and Marcia Langton.



National Science Week

Celebrating the Theme, “Seeds of Science: Nurturing Knowledge for All”, our Maggies enjoyed a week of hands-on activities, including terrarium making, seed-themed crafts, competitions, and science trivia.

Students got to hear LACW Tahli Wheeler, a Technician in the Royal Australian Air Force speak about her journey in science and the important role of women in STEM.



Darylle Sam and Eva Lui participating in the Assembly



Grace Wright & Evie Costigan enjoying some activities.

Emerging Leaders Alumni Event

Our Emerging Leaders Alumni came together for a special evening of connection at the Rydges.

It was wonderful to see SMMC ELIS Alumni's Veronica Brown, Bella de Waele, Maria Namok and Danielle Major attend the event.

The Alumni event is aimed at building a strong network of Emerging Leaders who will continue to grow, connect and make a difference in their communities.

If any families know of past Emerging Leaders students please encourage them to join the Alumni network



Danielle, Maria, Bella & Veronica



Maria & Danielle

ATSIAP Challenge

Congratulations to Dakota Conway, Emma Brooks and Erica-Rose Wehrman, who proudly represented our College at the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Aspirations Program Challenge earlier this Term.

Competing against 16 teams from 12 schools, the girls worked brilliantly together across a range of challenges and achieved an outstanding 2nd place in the QUIZ Challenge.

A fantastic effort and a valuable learning experience for all involved.



2026 BLAK Excellence & Graduation Liturgy



On the 3rd of September our Year 12 First Nations Graduates joined fellow graduates from across the Diocese for their BLAK Excellence Lunch which features several high profile First Nations speakers and Mentors.



Special guest Professor Roi-Anne West spoke to the graduates about her journey as an Aboriginal Health Worker for the past 30 years. Roi-Anne is a descendant from the Kalkadunga and Djkunde peoples.

Professor Roi-Anne West





The graduates then proceeded to the Sacred Heart Cathedral for their Graduation Liturgy. This special celebration recognised the achievements, resilience and journeys of our graduating students as they reach this important milestone.

Congratulations to our College Captain, Darylle Sam, and our Senior Cultural Leader Eva Lui, who were two of five students in the Diocese, nominated for the Bishop Michael Putney Student of the Year Award. We are incredibly proud of both young ladies.

A Maggie's Shout Out to Darylle Sam for taking out this award this year. Such a well-deserved recognition for your continued contribution as both College Captain and a voice for all First Nations students.



Congratulations to our 2026 Graduates



Amaya Aston



Keisa Bob



Georgia Clay



Dior Daisy



Sarah Dawson



Eva Lui





Jorja Neucom



Matilda Neucom



Darylle Sam



Destinee Swain



Lily-Ana Tanner



Kakie Wasaga



We also acknowledge another of our 2026 graduating students, Laylah Kurtz, who was unable to attend the Graduation Liturgy.

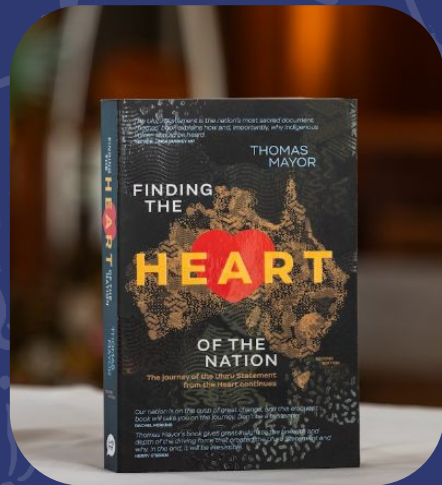




Table Mentor Ros Von Senden gave an autographed copy of her Children's Novel to Kakie and Dior.



Great chance to catch up with SMMC & ELIS Alumni Belle de Waele.



Louise with FNEAC/Parent Andrew Kirkpatrick

R U OK? Day

Our College Community came together for R U OK? Day.

Our staff enjoyed cupcakes and coffee whilst our Junior Leaders organised a fun scavenger hunt and encouraged kindness and conversation across the College.



Eden Lui

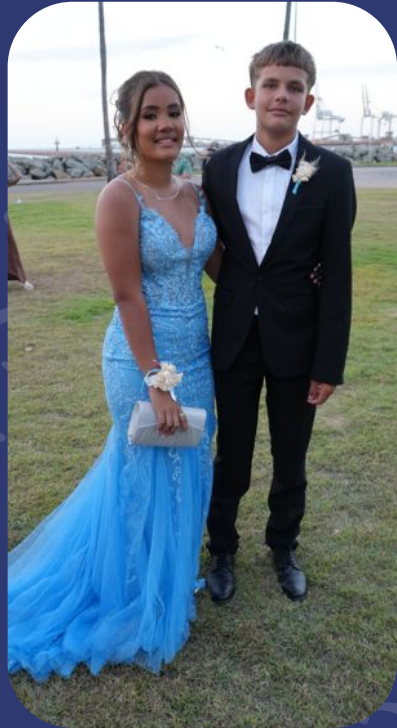


Faith & Brooklyn



Year 12 Formal 2026

Our Year 12 students looked amazing. What a night!
More to come in next Terms Yarn Up. Until then, enjoy these photos as a sneak peak of what is to come.



Dior Daisy



Amaya Aston



Laylah Kurtz



Eva Lui



Townsville Eisteddfod

Congratulations to our Bella Voce who competed in the Townsville Eisteddfod this year. They placed third in the Novelty section.

Well done to First Nations Choir members, Jorja Neucom, Dakota Parker, Chanel Houston and Eden Lui.



Year 8 Disco

Our Annual Year 8 Disco was a huge success, thanks to the Year 8 PML and staff, as well as some of our wonderful Year 11 students.

Our girls were joined by students from St Pats, Iggy Park and Abergowrie to have some fun dancing and dressing to the 80's theme.



Sports News.....



Congratulations to Year 11 student Madison Schell on her outstanding achievements over the holidays while representing Queensland in the Australian Schools Rugby Championships.

Maddie was awarded the prestigious Brian Peace Award while competing for the Queensland U16's team.

Santos Q7s State Rugby Championships

Our U16 Maggie's were outstanding on the field during the recent Santos Q7s State Rugby Championships.

Well done to all the girls especially our very own Madison Schell, Taya Zaro, Gemika Tapau and Elisapesi Afu.

The team's determination, skill and teamwork were on full display throughout the tournament.



Congratulations to Mackenzie Fogg on making her debut for the NQ U14's Rugby League team.



Our SMMC Year 7 & 8 Girls had an incredible day at the Karyn Murphy Cup, showing plenty of determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the competition. We were especially proud to see our Maggie's win three out of their four games.

Well done to all the girls, including Mackenzie Fogg, for representing our College and giving it their all on the field.

NQ All Schools Touch Carnival

Shout Out to all three of our NQ All Schools Touch teams for winning their respective competitions at the Carnival.

This marked the second consecutive year our Maggie's have achieved a clean sweep across all divisions, an outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to all students, especially our First Nation students, Eva Daisy, Kyana Daisy, Dakota Conway, Peyton Smith, Madison Schell, Dior Daisy and Sarah Dawson.



U13 Champions
Including Eva Daisy,
Dakota Conway & Peyton
Smith



U15 Champions
Including Kyana Daisy

U18 Champions



Madison Schell, Sarah Dawson & Dior Daisy



Year 9/10 Basketball Gala Day

What a fantastic day for our girls!

Our Maggie's confidently took the win in all of their games, showing great determination and teamwork throughout the day.

Congratulations to Ava Bowman, Emma Brooks, Ruby Cawthorne and Ava Letts-Butler.



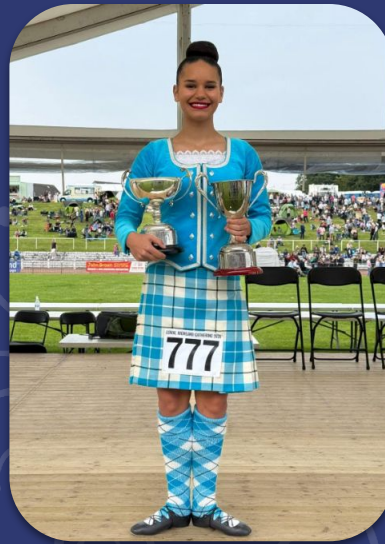
Congratulations:

Wow, way to go Taya!!!

Congratulations to our 2024 Graduate, former College Captain and 2024 winner of the Bishop Michael Putney Student of the Year Award, Taya Bowie.

Taya has joined the Moxie Sports Management Team. Her Rugby League Career continues to go from strength to strength, with her BMD Premiership debut, selection in the First Nations Gems NRL Rookie Academy, and her aspirations of progressing into the NRLW.

We are confident that Taya will continue to succeed in her Rugby League Career.



Well done to our Year 11 student Ellie Murgha.

Ellie was one of two FNQ representatives at the World Highland Dancing Championships in Dunoon, Scotland.

Ellie finished 3rd Overall in World Junior Championship final and Best Overseas Junior Dancer. She took to the stage with grace and confidence, representing herself, our region and College with such humility, positivity and class.

WELL DONE ELLIE!



Out & About.....

Congratulations to Ava Letts-Butler for being on of a number of SMMC students representing the College at the Townsville Catholic and Independent Schools District Japanese Speaking Competition. After preparing and delivering their own speeches, they confidently responded to judges follow-up questions, all in Japanese!



Jorja Neucom and Eval Lui recently took part in the Relay for Life. Our Year 12 Maggie's Angels successfully raised over \$9000!.

Keisa Bob, Georgia Clay & Dior Daisy at the TCE First Nations Graduation Liturgy.





Sadie Desatge

Well done Sadie Desatge. Sadie does one day a week placement at Vincent State School. Sadie was acknowledged and received an Educators Award for Educators Day.



Eva Lui & Shaniqua Ahwang

At the end of Term 2, a group of our students attended the **ADF *Aspire to Lead: Young Women Shaping the Future*** event, where they connected with current female leaders and service members from the Australian Defence Force. Through interactive activities and **career conversations**, students explored a range of **pathways** while gaining valuable insights into **leadership, service, and future opportunities**.

We congratulate all our students, especially Eva Lui and Shaniqua Ahwang on taking the initiative to attend this event and actively explore their career interests.

We were pleased to see First Nations students (Kylah and Eden) take part in the recently held Japanese Speech Night.

Students and their families enjoyed a traditional Taiko drumming performance and shared sushi before our Japanese language students took to the stage to present speeches about themselves.



Eden Lui



Kylah Schmidt



JCU Winter Camp Attendee:

“I was fortunate enough to attend the Indigenous JCU winter school during the school holidays. This experience showed students what subjects JCU has to offer and what life's like at Uni. I also met so many people, made many memories and got to see and learn heaps of things about the JCU campus. I even got to go to Magnetic Island as one of the activities my group did.” (Shelise Scaife)

Yarn Up Book Corner!

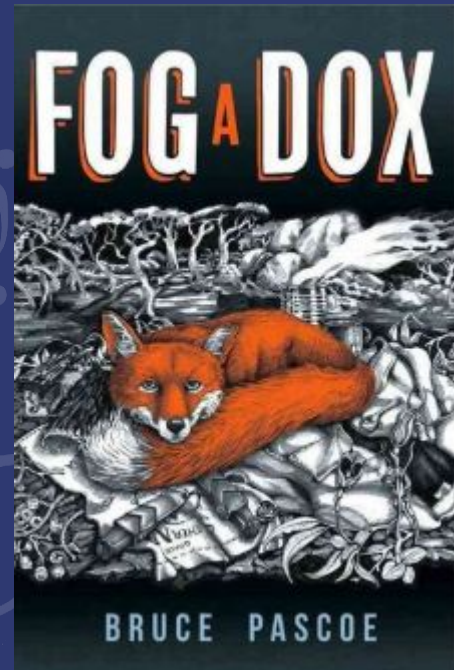
With Riitta Booth

An oldy but a goodie!

We've had classroom sets of this book in our library for a few years now, but I still believe it is a book worth highlighting. Bruce Pascoe identifies as a Yuin, Bunurong man and has written many books blend aboriginal traditions with contemporary life.

When Albert Cutts brings home three orphaned fox cubs from the bush, his half-dingo dog, Brim, is not so sure she wants to nurse them, along with her new pups. But loyal and obedient, that is what Brim does. Two of the three foxes soon go back to the wild, but not Fog, who grows up to be a dox - half dog, half fox.

Fog a Dox is a beautifully written tale of friendship, rescue and hope. It combines descriptive and poetic language with a raw, honest narrative voice.



Term Four - Save the Dates

October:

- 5th: PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 6th: BACK TO SCHOOL
- 9th: Year 7 2027 Orientation Day
- 12th: Homework Program Starts
- 15th: Emerging Leaders Roadshow
- 19th: FNEAC Meeting
- 26th: Year 12 External Exams begin

November:

- 3rd: ELIS Awards Night
- 23rd: Year 11 Exam Block
Year 10 Exam Block
- 26th: Year 10 Transition Day
- 27th: **LAST DAY**

How to contact the College?

Dial 4726 4900 and choose the appropriate option



1 Student Absences
To inform the College that your daughter will be absent.

2 Student Support Services
For late arrivals, early departures, or communication with students.

3 Health and First Aid
To speak with the sick bay or discuss medication.

4 College Reception
For enrolments, school fees, inquiries with staff, bus information, and general questions.

