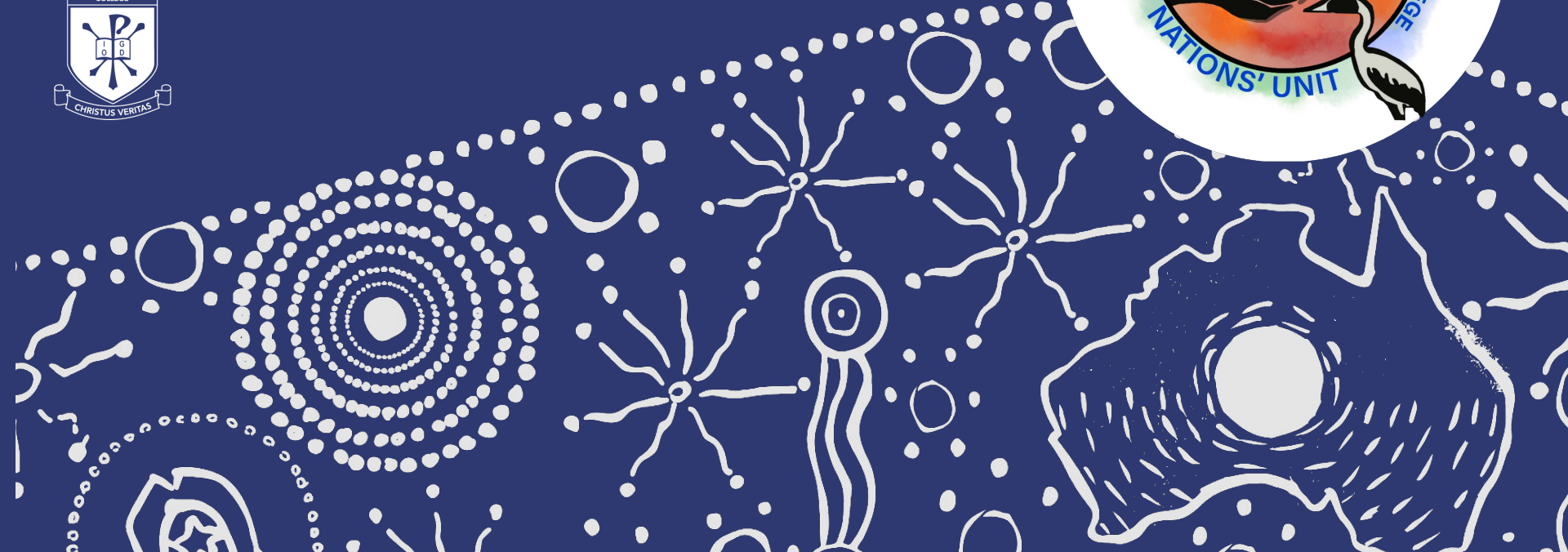


Yarn Up Newsletter

Term 2, 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



As Principal, I couldn't be more proud of our First Nations' students this Term. All of our major events and celebrations happen in these 10 weeks and our students have stepped up to the plate over and over again. The highlights for me this Term include our Year 10 Cultural Camp, Reconciliation Week Liturgy, Elders' Morning Tea, the visit to Shalom Elders' Village and of course our amazing NAIDOC Day celebrations where I delivered a speech about what it means to mark 50 years of Deadly achievements, courage and pride. At St Margaret Mary's College our First Nations' Education Team strive to encourage and support every student to be the very best that they can be. This Term our students have shown their excellence through their academic results, cultural engagement..

Principal's Report

..and in meeting the goals set out in their Emerging Leaders' Personal Learning Agreements.

We also strive to work in partnership with our families and Elders and having high levels of Parental participation in events at the College, helps our young Maggies to understand that they are supported at home and at school. Thank you to our incredible First Nations' Education Advisory Committee who help lead our progress towards our Reconciliation Action Plan goals and in terms of our Annual School Improvement agenda. All Parents, Carers and Elders are welcome to be part of our FNEA Committee each month. Dates are published on our website.

In this Term's Yarn Up - you will see so many deadly Maggies making their mark in the world. We are so proud of them all and look forward to another 50 years of deadly First Nations education at SMMC.



First Nations Team



Term 2 has been an incredibly busy and successful term for our First Nations students, filled with opportunities for leadership, cultural engagement, career exploration, community connection, and personal growth. We are immensely proud of the way our students have represented themselves, their families, and our College throughout the term.

Our students have embraced numerous opportunities to explore future pathways and develop leadership skills. In week 3 we had two students, Darylle Sam and Eva Lui attend the 2026 Women Unlimited First Nations Leadership Summit as part of Emerging Leaders. In Week 4, representatives from the University of Queensland visited the College to share information about university life and the InspireU Program, encouraging students to consider future tertiary study opportunities and participation in upcoming camps. In week 7 During Careers Week, students participated in workshops presented by Jessica Wedrat and Barbara Banu from the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism. Over the June and July school holidays, we have had a successful applicant who will participating in the JCU Winter school. Well done Shelise Scaife.

First Nations Team

Our College community proudly celebrated National Reconciliation Week with a student-led Reconciliation Liturgy. Our talented Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dancers opened the celebration with beautiful performances that reflected pride in culture and community. The Spirit of Reconciliation Awards once again recognised members of our community who actively promote understanding, respect, and reconciliation. Congratulations to all recipients, particularly honorary award winners Geoff Lui, Marita Townsend, and Eva Lui for their outstanding contributions to our College community.

Students and staff also attended the Emerging Leaders Showcase, highlighting the success of the Emerging Leaders Program and advocating for its continued growth. Our students proudly represented the College at the launch of Townsville Catholic Educations' first Reconciliation Action Plan, where our dance troupes performed and shared culture with the wider community.

Another special event was the Elders Yarn and Luncheon, where our Cultural Leaders had the opportunity to connect with respected Elders, listen to stories, ask questions, and learn from their wisdom and experiences. The event highlighted the importance of intergenerational learning and cultural connection.

First Nations Team

Our NAIDOC Week celebration was full of cultural activities. The week began with a Flag Raising Ceremony on the Monday, a visit from the Garbutt Magpies Elders on the Tuesday, celebrating the Shalom NAIDOC day at the Elders' Village on the Thursday and a whole school Liturgy and activities on the Friday.

Our First Nations Education Team continued to strengthen programs and opportunities through participation in the First Nations Networking Day and Emerging Leaders Coordinators Day. These professional learning opportunities ensure our staff remain informed about best practice in First Nations Education and continue to provide high-quality support for our students. We also held our First Nations Education Advisory Committee meeting during the term, bringing together community members and staff to guide and strengthen our College's commitment to First Nations Education and student success.

As we conclude another successful term, we thank our students, families, staff, Elders, community members, and partner organisations for their ongoing support. The achievements and experiences of Term 2 reflect the strength, resilience, leadership, and cultural pride of our students. We look forward to continuing these opportunities and celebrating further successes throughout the remainder of the year.



Our students have been busy working on their Cultural Engagement this Term. They have had many opportunities including Sorry Day, Reconciliation and NAIDOC Activities to be involved in, to build their Engagement Levels.

Magnetic Island provided a beautiful location for our Year 10 Emerging Leaders to once again enjoy their Career Pathways Camp, with guest speakers from our Emerging Leaders Team at Townsville Catholic Education.

Our Cultural Dance groups have been busy dancing at our Reconciliation Liturgy, Townsville Catholic Education's launch of their Reconciliation Action Plan at the Cathedral, and were also invited to dance at our very own Shalom Elders Village as part of their NAIDOC Day celebrations.

The Team at SMMC, and some of our Emerging Leaders students were also invited to attend the Emerging Leaders End of Program Showcase at the Ville Resort. Our College was highlighted through the involvement of Darylle Sam and Eva Lui as student voices, and Geoff & Serdonia Lui, speaking as parents of the Program. SMMC Alumni, Veronica Brown was also invited to speak on the panel.

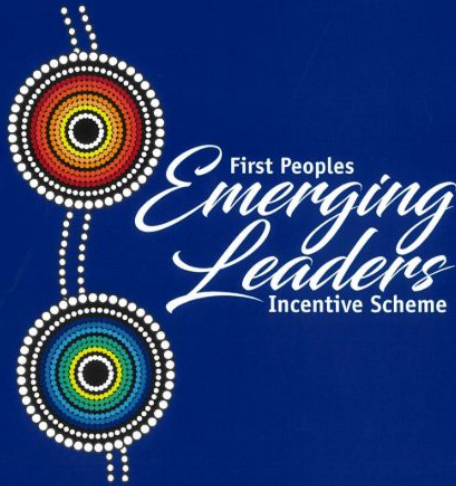




All students should now have their own Cultural Engagement Tracker document. They will need to keep this document updated with all of their activities that contribute to their Cultural Engagement for the year. Parents are asked to keep an eye on this document and ensure that the student have not forgotten anything, as this document will be used to calculate their Cultural Engagement Level at the end of the Program.

A reminder that when vetting our students with members of the Emerging Leaders Team at Townsville Catholic Education, we will be looking at students Attendance, Academic Achievement, Application to Learning in the Classroom, and their Cultural Engagement for the year. This vetting process will begin in Term Four and students will be advised of their Level of Achievement by the end of the Term.

2026 is once again the final year of our two year funding cycle. The Team at Townsville Catholic Education are lobbying the Government for continued funding. We will keep you all updated.



Year 10 Cultural Camp 2026

A highlight of the term was the Year 10 First Nations Camp at Magnetic Island. Fourteen students attended the three-day camp, participating in a range of activities designed to build confidence, leadership, cultural connection, and future planning.

Students engaged in career planning workshops, heard inspiring career stories from First Nations Advisors, participated in weaving and painting activities, explored the natural environment through walks and swimming, and developed teamwork skills through leadership challenges and a beach scavenger hunt.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs Marita Townsend, Mrs Kim McCosker, and Mrs Krista Hobbs for their support and contributions in making the camp such a rewarding and memorable experience.





ANZAC DAY 2026

Our College Community came together at our Anzac Day Liturgy earlier this Term in remembrance for Anzac Day. United in respect, students, staff, and members of our Defence community honoured the courage, sacrifice, and service of those who have served and continue to serve our Nation.



College Leaders including our very own; School Captain Darryle Sam, with Cultural Leaders, Eva Lui, Georgia Clay and Kesia Bob,



Jorja Neucom, Eva Lui and Chanel Houston performed in the Choir.



ANZAC DAY March

Our College Staff and Students gathered to honour ANZAC Day by attending both the Dawn Services and Parades held in Thuringowa and Anzac Park. A number of our First Nations students attended, including; Darryle Sam, Jorja & Matilda Neucom, Eva & Eden Lui and Remy Clothier.



University of Queensland Inspire U Program



Earlier in the Term, we had Jakiah and Kieran from UQ come in to speak to our girls about upcoming UQ Inspire U Camp being held in the June/July holidays.

This camp is designed for First Nations students to experience what it is like to be a UQ student. The camp is held over 5 consecutive days, where students will stay at a College Campus and participate in a week of University and Cultural activities.

While on camp, Inspire U students will have the opportunity to:

- Experience the vibrant student life on campus.
- Find out more about what area of study they are interested in from staff and industry partners.
- Learn about what scholarships, accommodation and services are available to our students.

Reconciliation Liturgy

Our College Community came together to honour the beginning of Reconciliation Week - a time to reflect, learn, and walk forward together.

This year's theme, "All In", calls on all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day.

Throughout the liturgy, we reflected on what National Reconciliation Week means to us as a community and were reminded that the journey toward reconciliation is a shared responsibility.

Our liturgy featured performances by our Cultural Dance Groups, and we proudly presented our Spirit of Reconciliation Awards to students and staff who were nominated by their peers.





2026 Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award Nominee..... Geoff and Serdonia Lui!

St Margaret Mary's College are proud to nominate Geoff and Serdonia Lui for the 2026 Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award.

Serdonia and Geoff have become an integral part of our College community, creating spaces where culture is celebrated and our First Nations Students feel a strong sense of belonging.

From performing the music to our Torres Strait Islander Dance Troupe to sharing cultural knowledge and traditions, their impact is seen in the pride and confidence of our First Nations students.

We also congratulate Justine Lyons, who was nominated for the Townsville Spirit of Catholic Education Award.



Geoff Lui



Serdonia Lui

Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award

2026
Spirit of Catholic
Education Awards



Justine Lyons

Emerging Leaders End of Funding Showcase

SMMC was honoured to take part in the celebration of the Emerging Leaders Incentive Program, showcasing nine years of transformative work.

The event featured a powerful panel discussion, including 2018 SMMC alumni Veronica Brown, one of our very first Emerging Leaders, now making her mark as a criminal lawyer at Qld Legal Service here in Townsville.

We were also honoured to hear from Geoff and Serdonia Lui, valued members of our First Nations Education Committee and parent community, who shared their experience as parents of Emerging Leaders students. They spoke of the incredible impact the program has had on their families and the great support that the program and staff at SMMC have given their daughters.





Townsville Catholic Education RAP Launch

A few weeks ago, we proudly celebrated the launch of the Townsville Catholic Education Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Our First Nations students represented SMMC, and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance Groups delivered a powerful performance following the Mass.

A truly special moment unfolded when technical difficulties arose preventing our music to be played for our Aboriginal Dance Troupe to dance. Ashley Saltner, a Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner, honoured our students by performing the traditional songs live, creating a moving experience for all, while our Aboriginal students danced. Thank you Ash!

Both our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dance Troupes represented our College and Community with pride.



Reconciliation Week Elders Yarn Lunch

Our Emerging Leaders students and families came together for our Reconciliation Week Elders Yarn Lunch.

Our Elders generously shared their stories, reflecting on what culture and reconciliation mean to them, and their connection to this year's theme, "All In".

A massive thank you to Mrs Krause and the Year 11 Food and Nutrition class (including our very own, Amaziah Ahwing and Cyntara Cairns) for beautifully catering the event using native ingredients.



NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony

In Week 9, our College community gathered to mark the beginning of NAIDOC Week with a Flag Raising Ceremony.

We raised the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in recognition of the First Peoples, whose nations across this land and surrounding Islands represent the world's oldest continuing cultures. Alongside them, we also raised the Australian flag as a symbol of the many communities living together under the stars of the Southern Cross.

We thank all our special guests for attending, and we also acknowledge and thank our students, Jorja Neucom, Matilda Neucom, Darylle Sam, Destinee Swain, Amaya Pearce, Kesia Bob, Georgia Clay, Eva Lui, Remy Clothier, Eden Lui, Kylah Schmidt and Aubree Lowe.



Shalom Elders Village NAIDOC Celebrations

On Thursday the 18th June St Margaret Mary's Dance Troupes performed at the Shalom Elders' Village NAIDOC celebration, where our dancers showcased both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dances. The involvement of community members, Elders, and the Lui family created a memorable day of cultural sharing and connection.







NAIDOC Liturgy & Activities



Our College-wide NAIDOC Day celebration brought together students, staff, families, and community members for a liturgy, cultural activities, weaving workshops, face painting, music, games, sausage sizzle, cake, and prizes. The day was enriched by a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony delivered by the Wulgurukaba Walkabouts.







DATISAP Careers Week

During Careers Week, students participated in workshops presented by Jessica Wedrat and Barbara Banu from the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism. These sessions focused on career readiness, interview skills, documentation, and employment pathways, providing practical tools to support students in their future careers.



First Nations Women In Leadership Summit.

Emerging Leaders, Darylle Sam and Eva Lui were selected to attend the 2026 Women Unlimited First Nations Leadership Summit in Meanjin (Brisbane). These young women were strong, confident, and capable leaders who took this opportunity to sit in community with other First Nations women from all walks of life. They listened intently and reflected deeply on all of the guest speakers who shared their wisdom, stories, and strategies. They made us all proud, and represented their peers, school communities, and their families proudly.



Dior's Art



We are so proud of Year 12 student Dior Daisy, for her design, to be proudly displayed on our SMMC Confraternity Jersey.

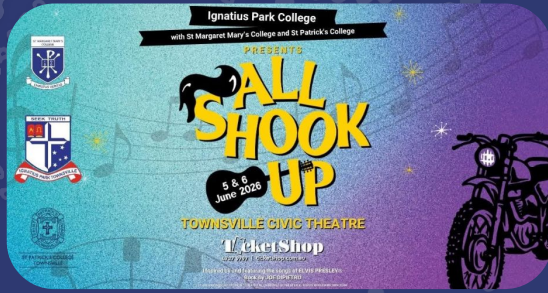
“My design tells a story of connection, identity, and personal values.

In the bottom right, is a symbol representing the connection between us individuals, and the community.

Above it, in the top right corner, is the yarnning circle of women that signifies coming together in sisterhood; young women united in equality, mutual respect, and being together with no judgement.

On the left side, I have placed footprints to illustrate the pathway of an individual's journey through life, acknowledging growth, movement, and personal experience.”

Dior Daisy 2026



The Annual Combined Schools Musical is one of the highlights of our College calendar. We were very excited to once again partner with St Patrick's College and Ignatius Park College to provide another exceptional extracurricular opportunity in Arts for our Students.

"All Shook Up" was a resounding success and we congratulate Charlotte Kirkpatrick for doing an amazing job in playing one of the Lead Characters of the Show. We also congratulate Violet Ziehmer and Tilly Westwood in their wonderful performances as well.

Congratulations girls, we are very proud of all three of you!

Sports

Congratulations to Elisapesi Afu, Teshaylia Tanna and Taya Zaro who represented the College at the Rugby League State Championships in Gladstone.



Shout Out to our Vicki Wilson Shield Team on their win at the Vicki Wilson Championships.



Congratulations to Peyton Smith who competed as part of the SMMC team in the Qld Schoolgirls (13-14 years) tournament in Townsville earlier in the Term. They placed 7th overall.

Well done to our First Nation Students; Grace Wright, Kyana Daisy, Talea Major and Daijah-Lee Kupfer Sorbello, who competed in the Vicki Wilson Championships. They finished 3rd overall and our Development team placed 3rd in their pool and equal 5th overall after playoffs.



Year 7 student Remy Clothier was part of our SMMC Bill Turner Cup Team who took out 3rd Place. Congratulations.

Congratulations to Ellie Murgha, who competed at the Australian Highland Dancing Championships and the Champion of Champions Championship of Australia on the Gold Coast.

Ellie was crowned Australian Champion (16-17 Years), and also placed 5th overall in the Adult 16 & Over category. Ellie will now travel to Scotland in August to compete at the World Highland Dancing Championships.



We are very proud of our Year 8 student Mackenzie Fogg for her selection in the NQ Team!



Well Done Amaelia Hoiss, Taya Zaro, Gemika Tapau and Teshaylia Tanna, who competed at the 15/16 and 17/18 Rugby 7's State Championships for Northern.



Representing the College at QISSN in Brisbane, later in the month is Daijah-Lee Kupfer-Sorbello and Talea Major.

Out & About.....



Throughout Term 1, our Maggie's came together to ignite hearts and move the world through fundraising for Caritas' Project Compassion. The College raised \$2,716.10 which was presented to pass Maggie, Rebecca, who is the Pastoral Projects Officer from the Townsville Diocesan Office. It was wonderful to see so many of our Emerging Leaders students get involved in this fundraising project.



It was wonderful to see so many of our First Nations students get involved in the Harmony Week celebrations.



Cultural Dance Troupe performing at the TCE RAP Launch



Jorja and Matilda Neucom rolled up their sleeves and took action for Clean Up Australia Day.



Koko Harris and Marleeyah Lippett on Albinism Awareness Day



Congratulations Peyton Smith, Mackenzie Fogg, Kyra Ironside, Emma Brooks, Mackenna Murray and Chanel Houston on receiving Maggie Spirit Awards for Term 2..



Samaritan Angels Jorja Neucom, Remy Clothier, Shelise Scaife and Dakota Conway, making beautiful textile pieces to be passed on to others in need.



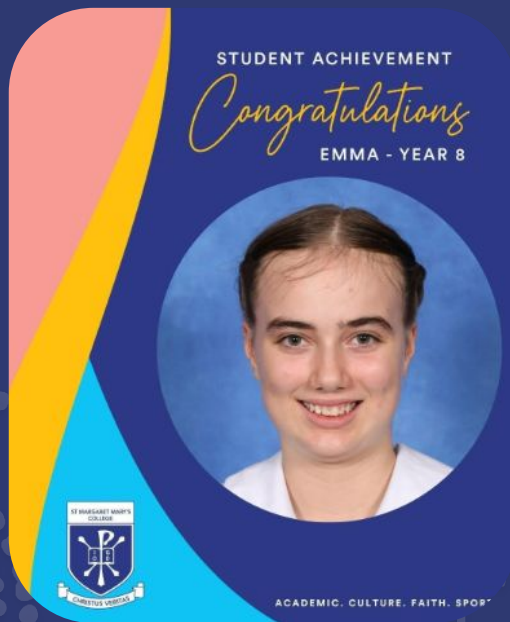
Kesia Bob, Lily-Ana Tanner, Destinee Swain, Sarah Dawson, Matilda Neucom, Racyna Binawel and Kakie Wasaga were given hands-on insight into where a career in healthcare can lead, through the High School Health Adventure program at the Townsville Mater.



Year 7 students, Kyana Daisy and Eden Lui having fun at the Year 7 Camp on Magnetic Island



Congratulations to First Nations student, Emma Brooks (Year 8) on her outstanding achievement in being selected as one of just 11 members of the Townsville Youth Council for the 2026-2027 term. The selection process was highly competitive, requiring a written application followed by a panel interview for shortlisted candidates. The Townsville Youth Council provides a valuable platform for young people to share their ideas, feedback, and solutions with Council, Government and the wider community. It focuses on identifying and addressing key issues affecting young people in Townsville, raising the profile of youth contributions to community life, and promoting diversity by including members from a broad range of backgrounds and experiences.



Shaniqua, Gemika and Ava working on Maths in Milpera!



Enjoying the Defence Force opportunities at Career Expo, were Gemika Tapau, Racyna Binawel, Shaniqua Ahwang, Ava Letts-Butler and Dakota Parker.



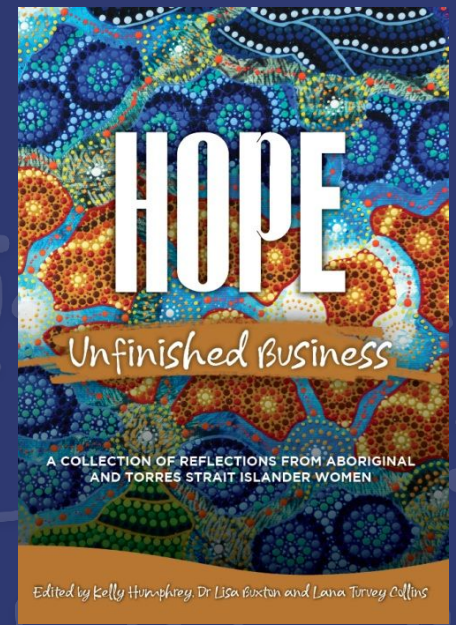
Year 11 student Calleigh Reynolds enjoying some Physics Fun with OzGrav ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery.

Yarn Up Book Corner!

Alice Springs, 1986, Pope John Paul II, stated 'Dear Aboriginal People, the honour has come for you to take on new courage and new hope. You are called...'

During the 'Jubilee Year of Hope', in 2025, there was unfortunately, no specific mention of the Indigenous people. However, eleven Catholic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have taken it upon themselves to contribute towards this book, which tells stories of themselves and the troubles they face in this life by cementing themselves in hope brought about grace.

So, this collection of stories provides a personal and yet profoundly communal understanding of hope.



Hope edited by Kelly Humphrey



Term Three - Save the Dates

July:

Week 1

Monday 13th

- Back to School

Wednesday 15th

- Athletics Carnival

Friday 17th

- Holy Spirit NAIDOC

Week 2

Monday 20th

- FNEAC Meeting

Tuesday 21st

- Parent Teacher Interviews

Wednesday 22nd

- Garbutt Magpies Cup

August

Week 4

Tuesday 4th

- National Aboriginal &
Torres Strait Islander
Children's Day

- Yr 9 into 10 Information Night

Week 5

Tuesday 11th

- Year 12 Information Night

Week 7

Monday 24th

- FNEAC Meeting

September

Week 8

Thursday 3rd

- BLAK Excellence Lunch

- Year 12 TCE Graduation

Friday 4th

- Indigenous Literacy Day

- PUPIL FREE DAY

Week 9

Year 11 & 12 MOCK Exams Start

Thursday 10th

- Year 12 Formal

Week 10

Year 11 & 12 MOCK Exams

FRIDAY 18TH - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

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.

