



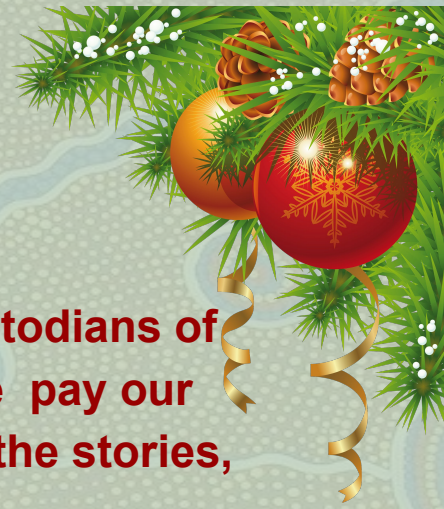
YARN UP Newsletter



TERM FOUR

2025

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.....

We have so much to celebrate about First Nations' education at St Margaret Mary's College for 2025. I was so proud to present the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards recently to recipients at the Emerging Leaders' Showcase - a wonderful celebration of academic success, cultural pride and community engagement.

Some of our major highlights for the year included our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Dance Groups, our NAIDOC celebration with Geoff Lui where he taught Staff and Students some of his rich knowledge of Torres Strait Islander culture and knowledges and the ongoing commitment of our First Nations Education Advisory Committee.

I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Louise Martin, Mrs Zoe Brown and Mr Willie Morganson as well as all our whole Staff for their enthusiasm, support and dedication to improving the outcomes for our First Nation students.

I congratulate our Graduating Year 12 students - you will always be part of our Maggie family and we wish you every joy and success in the future.

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
Kathleen McCarthy



First Nation Team



2025 has been a busy year as we welcomed many new additional First Nations' programs and events. We have seen our First Nations students in leadership positions strive and represent their fellow students with pride and grace.

A special congratulations to Darylle Sam, one of our First Nations students who had been elected as one of our College School Captains for 2026. What an amazing achievement! It really goes to show you can do anything you put your mind to!

This year has seen us celebrate all of our Culturally significant dates as well as our whole school celebrations of Reconciliation and NAIDOC liturgies and activities. We held a wonderful Elders Lunch which saw our students spend some quality time with Elders and sharing their wisdom.





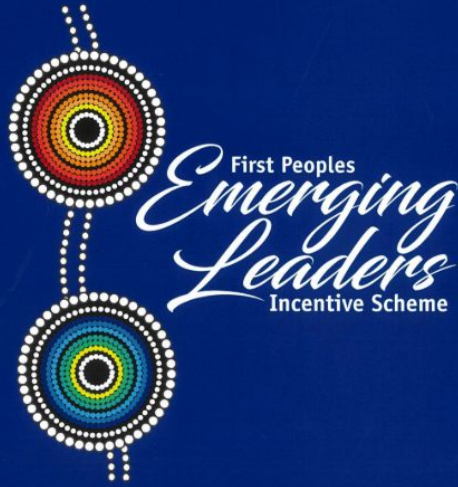
2025 saw new events being included into our First Nations calendar, particularly our Year 10 Cultural, Leadership and Pathways Camp to Magnetic Island and going into St Joseph Catholic Primary School to do some reading and cultural activities with the younger children.

Our College also saw Miss Zoe being nominated for the Auntie Joan Hendricks Reconciliation award, and two of our First Nations students; Maria Namok and Kesia Bob acknowledged in our Catholic Education Week Liturgy, receiving awards for displaying Catholic Education Spirit. We had 4 of our wonderful students successfully complete their QATSIF scholarships and another four being granted the same scholarship for next year. A special shout out to our First Nations Cultural Dance Groups who have had a fantastic year.

To our family and friends who have supported our school over the past year in educational or cultural experiences we are truly grateful for your time and knowledge. Thank you also to our students, it is because of your wonderful support and enthusiasm we are able to achieve so much.

We wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and hope you get the chance to spend time with your loved ones, eat plenty of Christmas food and of course lots of rest. Have a fantastic break and we will see you all in 2026!





What an amazing year we have had. I am so proud of our deadly Emerging Leaders students of 2025.

The bar was raised this year with the inclusion of Application to Learning, and the necessity for students to pass both Maths and English, in order to go above a Bronze Level.

This impacted some of our students, but overall the majority of our students were up to the task and proudly displayed their achievements at our Emerging Leaders Presentation Award night.

Thank you to all of our Mentors for their commitment and support for our program. Your support to our students is greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to our amazing families for your continued support throughout the year.

Lastly, thank you to the team at Townsville Catholic Education. Your guidance and support is always appreciated.





Emerging Leaders Mental Health & Wellbeing Roadshow

On Thursday 16th October, our Emerging Leaders students attended the Emerging Leaders Mental Health & Wellbeing Roadshow at the Queensland Country Bank Stadium.

Ms Martin, Mr Morganson, Mrs Roberts and Ms Zoe spent the day at the Roadshow with 74 of our St Margaret Mary's College Emerging Leaders Students.

It was an incredible day filled with connection, culture and inspiration as our students came together with other Emerging Leaders students from the Townsville area to celebrate leadership and wellbeing.

Thank you Townsville Catholic Education for hosting this amazing event.









Emerging Leaders Awards Night

Our celebrations were loud, proud and full of energy on Monday the 10th of November. Our community came together to applaud our Emerging Leader students and their achievements.

We were joined by members of the Emerging Leaders & First Nations Team from Townsville Catholic Education in presenting the awards to our deadly students.

Our awesome First Nations Advisory Committee members and Mentors were once again on hand to support our College Community and the Emerging Leaders Program.

Congratulations to all of our amazing achievers, and also to Dom Farrow and Maria Namok for being presented with the Principal's Award for 2025.

We also say farewell to our Graduating Class of 2025: Rylie Toby-O'Leary, Dakota Namok, Ellie Thomson, Jaqlyn Kepa, Narzallia Doolah, Maria Namok and Danielle Major. The College wished them well in their future endeavours. Congratulations on your graduation.





**Congratulations to our following Emerging Leaders
Students in their achievements for 2025:**

BRONZE LEVEL Achievers:

Zepaniah Baira
Amelia Clarke
Ashlynn Murray
Racyna Binawel
Shelise Scaife
Amaziah Ahwing
Sadie Desatge
Olivia Starr
Ellie Thomson

Marleeyah Lippett
Ruby Griffith
Indiah-Louise Ras
Cian Lui
Annabelle Seage
Skye Baira-Matters
Jada Duroux
Narzallia Doolah

Kira Skipper
Ruby Kostuch
Ursula Bengaroo
Florianna Sakail
Gemika Tapau
Naraira Bann
Dakota Parker
Jaqlyn Kepa





SILVER LEVEL Achievers:

Isabella Bin Doraho-Wedrat
Dakota Conway
Tameeliah Nona
Erica-Rose Wehrman
Faith Stone
Daijah-Lee Kupfer Sorbello
Madison Turner
Alicia Mairu
Kesia Bob
Lily-Ana Tanner

Lily Bonner
Mackenzie Fogg
Peyton Smith
Edie Westwood
Elisapesi Afu
Talea Major
Grace Brook
Calleigh Reynolds
Georgia Clay
Maria-Leigh Namok

Emma Brooks
Kyra Ironside
Jordana Snary
Brooklyn Anderson
Helena Kaczmarek
Teshaylia Tanna
Addison Ironside
Kiamani Taylor
Destinee Swain





GOLD LEVEL Achievers:



Sera-Elaine Tilagucaguca
Ava Bowman
Ayla Pearce
Tilly Westwood
Violet Ziehmer
Ellie Murgha
Jorja Neucom
Amaya Pearce
Rylie Toby-O'Leary



Shaniqua Ahwang
Charlotte Kirkpatrick
Kendall Sweeney
Taya Zaro
Issabella Garcia
Eva Lui
Matilda Neucom
Darylle Sam













Thank you to our Deadly 2025 Mentors!



Kathleen McCarthy



Melissa Pearce



Bernadette Anderson



Rachel Harrison



Chris Davis



Kim Cameron



Suzi Sheriff

“My Mentor always asks me if I am okay, when she sees me” Student 2025

Anna-Luisa Bertocchi



Justine Lyons



Riitta Booth



Jen Edwards



Willie Morganson



Lisa Hamilton



Karen Flynn





Amanda May



Tia Trueman



Amy Bent



Dom Farrow



Peter Leete



Rhonda Reddicliffe

"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself" Oprah Winfrey



Paula Gabrielli



Katherine Truntic



Irma Lapico



Kath Burke



Prue Hendle





Rhiannon
Larsen-Bayer



Kylie Wallis



Zoe Brown



Gemma Roberts



Louise Martin



Keeley O'Connell



Chelsea Clay



Georgia Stayte

**Thank You for
seeing the
potential in our
students!**



Nadine Orman is leaving the Program to focus on her teaching and Pastoral Role. Thanks Nadine for supporting our Program.



Michelle Kotzas, Sarah Daniels, Catherine Spencer and Florinda Battistel are leaving the College to start new journeys. We wish them well and thank them for their support of our Emerging Leaders Students.

College Awards Night.....

The College Awards Night was held on Thursday 20th November. This night saw First Nations students receive **Excellence Awards** and **Honour Awards** for their hard work and perseverance throughout the year.

Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7 Excellence Awards

Bronze Award

Dakota Conway
Peyton Smith

Year 9 Excellence Awards

Bronze Award

Charlotte Kirkpatrick

Year 8 Excellence Awards

Bronze Award

Ruby Kostuch

Silver Award

Ayla Pearce
Violet Ziehmer

Gold Award

Kendall Sweeney



Year 10 Excellence Award

Silver Awards

Isabella Garcia



Year 11 Excellence Awards

Bronze Award

Eva Lui

Gold Award

Jorja Neucom

Honour Awards

Parents and Friends Christian leadership Award

Year 9 - Kendall Sweeney, Violet Ziehmer

Monsignor Vandeleur Bursary - Year 10 - Ellie Murgha

First Nations Leadership Award - Rylie Toby-O'leary



First Nations Academic Achievement Award

Junior - Kendall Sweeney

Senior - Jorja Neucom

First Nations Woman of Spirit Award

Junior - Taya Zaro

Senior - Eva Lui

QATSIF Young Indigenous Leader Award

Rylie Toby-O'Leary

CQU Determination and Growth Award

Ava Bowman

Mary Jenner Memorial Sports Award - Narzallia Doolah

Federal Member for Herbert Year 11 Award - Jorja Neucom



2025 Year 12 Graduation Ritual



Congratulations Narzallia Doolah,
Jaqlyn Kepa, Danielle Major, Dakota
Namok, Maria Namok, Ellie Thomson
and Rylie Toby-O'Leary.

We wish you all the very best with
your future endeavors!





Ellie Thomson with Dad.



Maria & Dakota Namok & Family



**Kathleen presenting to Rylie,
Maria & Dakota**



**Narly Doolah & Jaqlyn Kepa
with Mel Pearce.**

(Photo compliments of Cowboys House Facebook Page).



**2026 Cultural Leaders,
Georgia Clay & Eva Lui**



Our U14 and U16 Rugby 7s teams dominated the field at the Deadly School 7s tournament with both teams going undefeated and taking out the win. Congratulations to Elisapesi Afu, Sadie Desatge, Teshaylia Tanna, Gemika Tapau, Taya Zaro, Naraira Bann, Sayla-Rose Cooper and Mackenzie Fogg who represented us with pride.



Congratulations to Emma Brooks who represented the College in the Year 7 & 8 Basketball Team on the Gold Coast. They competed in the CBSQ Sophomore Tournament.



Darylle Sam & Jorja Neucom were part of the Year 11 Drama class that performed extracts from "Bustown".



Dakota Parker and Violet Ziehmer having a Jam session with Miss Dufficey.



Shaniqua Ahwang was one of a group of students who went to Loreto House to visit the wonderful ladies there. They got to share many stories and had some great laughs.



Dakota Parker working on her Year 10 Design & Technology Assessment.



Two of our graduating Year 12 students of 2025. Narly Doolah & Jaqlyn Kepa.

(Photo taken by Raelene Davis -Cowboys House.)

2026 - Dates to remember.....

January:

27th PUPIL FREE DAY
28th Year 7 & 12 BACK TO SCHOOL
29th ALL Year Levels return

February:

10th Year 7 Welcome Morning Tea
16th FNEAC Meeting 5.00 - 6.00pm

March:

2nd ELIS PIN
5th ELIS Mentors Breakfast
23rd FNEAC Meeting 5.00 - 6.00pm



April:

2nd LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
3rd GOOD FRIDAY
5th EASTER SUNDAY
6th EASTER MONDAY

20th BACK TO SCHOOL

Merry
Christmas
to all

