It is truly hard to believe we are already halfway through the school year, but what a year it has been so far! 2013 continues to be filled with highlights and leadership at Southern Cross Catholic College particularly when it comes to Indigenous Education. Our College continues its commitment to strive for excellence for its students, staff and whole college community.

We are fortunate to be recipients of recent Government Funding in collaboration with the Stronger Smarter Institute under the National Next Steps Initiative for 2013. It is through this funding that a number of key initiatives have been carefully planned and implemented to further excel Indigenous Education at SCCC.

Just one of these initiatives has included the employment of two additional staff members to join Ms. McMurtrie working across the College. We welcome Mr. Dallas Brown (Support Teacher Indigenous Education) and Ms. Theresa Smith (School Officer).

Some of the other current initiatives underway have included the establishment of our Homework Club, Indigenous Community Partnership Committee, installation of additional flagpoles, purchase of iPads for the Homework Club, creation of the Reconciliation Bush Tucker Garden Space (De La Salle Campus), local and remote cultural immersion programs for both staff and students and the development of Personalised Learning Plans for Indigenous students.

One particular highlight for this semester has been our involvement at the College’s recent Patron’s Day celebration. On this day, our whole College gathers together for the only time in the year to celebrate our uniqueness and togetherness as one. Due to our college size, this is the largest gathering of students, staff and parents from one school in the Archdiocese, with over 2000 people joining together on the De La Salle oval in prayer and celebration. This year was particularly special as our Indigenous students were part of the opening liturgy to commence the day’s events. Jasmine Maynard (Year 11) proudly led the liturgy by firstly Acknowledging Country followed by sharing a local Aboriginal story of the Southern Cross. Our Early Junior Years Indigenous students from Frawley campus proudly wore their ochre and beads and helped tell the story through their actions. Our students performed with such pride and were a real credit to themselves. Well done students, we are so very proud of you! We look forward to participating in many more assemblies and ceremonies over the coming semester with all of our students.

Some key dates on the horizon for Term 3 at SCCC include:

- Monday 8th July - Recommencement of Homework Club 3.15pm - 4.45pm (Every Monday)
- Friday 12th July - Indigenous Community Partnership Committee Meeting (De La Salle Campus)
- 7th-14th July - National NAIDOC Week
- Sunday 21st July - College Open Day
- Monday 22nd July - College NAIDOC Assembly & Family Luncheon (De La Salle Campus) - 11.45am
- Thursday 25th July - Year 11 and 12 Students - Bangarra Dance Theatre Performance “Blak”

Thank you for your efforts and support during Semester 1 and we look forward to seeing you in Term 3!
I am currently seeking expressions of interest to start a young men's group at Southern Cross Catholic College. The naming of this group has been derived from local Gubbi Gubbi language and means “Strong Aboriginal Men”. This young men’s group will meet once a week commencing in Term 3 where we will undertake various activities throughout the year including learning how to play the didjeridoo.

I will be organising didjeridoo lessons to be run in conjunction with a local Gubbi Gubbi member. Teaching our young men how to play the didjeridoo is a way for them to not only learn more about their culture but to also showcase their skills for our college community including classrooms, functions and assemblies.

At this stage, I see this program commencing in term 3 and will be held one afternoon a week for 1 hour. More information will be made available at our next upcoming ICPC Meeting on Friday 12th July (Week 1, Term 3) where I will share more details about this proposed program.

Dallas Brown

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Homework Club NEWS Update...

The Homework Club has now completed its trial period for Term 2. Since the commencement of the Homework Club we have received great feedback from students, families and teachers. As a result, we are pleased to advise the Club will now continue until the end of 2013.

The Homework Club has been established to further support our students in completing their weekly homework tasks plus engage in various cultural activities such as Traditional Indigenous Games. We have had a consistent number of students who regularly attend.

The college bus collects students from both Mackillop and Delany campuses and operates on Monday afternoons from 3.15 – 4.45pm. An afternoon tea is provided for all students attending. Senior students often visit the centre to provide additional academic support and mentoring for the younger students.

We would like to encourage more students from all year levels (prep to year 12) and campuses to use this valuable service. If your child wishes to attend please email or phone Ms. McMurtrie or Mr. Brown to organise a permission slip to travel on the school bus. If your child attends either Frawley or De La Salle campus a permission slip is still required.

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2013

NAIDOC Invitation

Families and Friends are invited to join us on MONDAY 22nd JULY - 11.45am De La Salle Campus (Front Lawns) for our NAIDOC Ceremony followed by a hot lunch - 12.45pm- 1.45pm

Letters will be forwarded to all families in Week 1, Term 3, with further details.

PLEASE MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDARS!
My name is Jasmine Maynard. I am currently in year 11 and privileged to be a QATSIF scholarship recipient to help with completing my year 11 and 12 studies at Southern Cross Catholic College. Receiving a scholarship has not only helped my family but it has helped me to keep focused to complete my year 12 studies.

Since commencing Year 11 I am grateful to have many opportunities in our local community such as becoming a volunteer group leader for the local Indigenous girls camp linked with the Deadlee Maardars Group. This is where I go on camp and become a leader for young local Indigenous girls from year 5–7. Our next camp is at Stradbroke Island at the end of the year.

I have also recently been selected to participate in the Indigenous Mentoring Program located in the city. As part of the Indigenous Mentoring Program, the main goal is to be mentored by someone who can help us set pathway goals, personal goals and career goals. My mentor’s name is Anta. She is an inspirational lady and we get along very well. Anita will stay in touch with me during the year and beyond to catch up and to help keep me focussed on my goals.

In addition to this, I have recently commenced a school based traineeship, Certificate 3 in Business, at Mission Australia located in Caboolture. At present I spend every Wednesday working at Mission Australia. I really enjoy working with other people and doing something different each day where I work in a community environment where people are helped. So far it has been a wonderful place to work. I will complete my Certificate 3 towards the end of Year 12.

Throughout my education, I have been to quite a number of schools and in different states. I am happy to be here back at Southern Cross to complete my studies. The best part about being an Indigenous student at Southern Cross is the extra support I receive and being able to go and talk to Indigenous support staff who understand and can help me when I need it. I love being able to be a part of our college’s cultural activities, student gatherings and being able to represent our culture by doing speeches such as Acknowledgements when required. I also enjoy mentoring our younger Indigenous students through the Homework Club and other student gatherings.

Jasmine Maynard Year 11

Jasmine

"ULURU" BY TYLAH DAVID YEAR 4

MONIQUE TINETTI - YEAR 12

PRESTON BROWN - YEAR 4
My name is **Dallas Brown** and I am from Gomeroi Country, Mungindi, New South Wales. I am very pleased to be working at Southern Cross Catholic College in the role of Support Teacher Indigenous Education.

I have recently graduated from the Australian Catholic University completing a dual qualification of Diploma and Bachelor of Indigenous Education. My role at Southern Cross Catholic College primarily involves working across the Early Junior Years campuses but also on a number of other whole College Initiatives with Mary.

A major focus of my teaching role includes identifying, implementing and evaluating strategies to further enhance student learning. I pride myself on promoting and including Indigenous perspectives into student learning and engagement and I am a strong believer of parental involvement in the education of their children. I look forward to meeting and working with families to achieve the best outcomes for all of our students.

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My name is **Mary McMurtrie** and I am a descendant of the Kalkadoon Language Group, situated in far north west Queensland region. I was born and raised on Turrbal Country (Brisbane) and have been living on the Redcliffe Peninsula for the past 5 years.

I have completed tertiary studies at the Australian Catholic University and accredited with both a Diploma and a Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies).

I look forward to continuing on our whole College journey towards further heightening cultural identity, maintaining high expectations and achieving many positive outcomes and experiences for our students, families and our whole school community. I am passionate about Indigenous Education and a strong believer in establishing strong relationships between home and school. I believe it is important to create a positive sense of identity at school for our children by knowing who they are, being proud of who they are and having a real sense of belonging.

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My name is **Theresa Smith** and I have lived in Redcliffe all my life apart from a 6 month stint in Cairns. I have been associated with the Southern Cross Community for over 10 years in the capacity of parent, volunteer and school officer. My current role is School Officer Indigenous Support working with Mary and Dallas across all four campuses.

In my role, I work closely with the students supporting their individual needs working in one on one situations and/or small group or class work. I thoroughly enjoy working with children and seeing them gain confidence, achieve their best and be proud of who they are. Since my involvement working in this role, I have learnt of the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and perspectives. I take great pride in nurturing each student’s individuality and working together with them to develop confidence in learning.
What does it mean to be Aboriginal? Why is Australia so obsessed with notions of identity? Dr. Anita Heiss, successful author and passionate campaigner for Aboriginal literacy, was born a member of the Wiradjuri nation of central New South Wales but raised in the suburbs of Sydney and educated at the local Catholic school. She is Aboriginal - however, this does not mean she likes to go barefoot and, please, don’t ask her to camp in the desert!

After years of stereotyping Aboriginal Australians as either settlement dwellers or rioters in Redfern, the Australian media have discovered a new crime to charge them with: being too ‘fair-skinned’ to be real Aborigines. Such accusations led to Anita’s involvement in one of the most important and sensational Australian legal decisions of the twenty-first century when she joined others in charging a newspaper columnist with breaching the Racial Discrimination Act. He was found guilty.

In this deeply personal memoir, told in her distinctive, wry style, Anita Heiss gives a first-hand account of her experiences as a woman with an Aboriginal mother and Austrian father, and explains the development of her activist consciousness.

“Heiss’s sense of belonging and love for family and community provide the centrepiece to her successful career in the arts and politics. Her books are indeed gifts to all who read them”...

Dr. Jackie Huggins AM
The Bush Tucker garden, located next the staffroom on the De La Salle Campus, is progressing well. We have recently filled the garden with an array of local native plant species supplied by the Witjuti Grub nursery, Kenilworth. The irrigation and mulching has now been completed and some additional artwork has been added alongside the Year 9 Damascus murals. The CROSS artwork has been designed in collaboration with Ms. McMurtrie, Senior Community Elder Uncle Peter Bird and local Indigenous artists

Debbie Taylor and Laurie Nilsen.

Cross Art Description by Debbie Taylor

In the centre of the cross is the circle, which is the symbol for a meeting place, a campfire. The U shapes are the individuals congregated there around the campfire. This is a place of story telling, education, passing down of ancient wisdom, imparting laws. The image in the centre of the circle represents the Redcliffe area and the Southern Cross. Making their way to the place of learning are the footprints of our young people. The ochre colour represents the spiritual journey they are on. They travel from different directions to get to the learning place.

The areas of blue represent the Torres Strait Islander youth. They are people of the salt water and tropical vegetation. Their culture and traditions are represented by the turtles and waves at the base of the picture, and by their traditional headdress (Dhari) and vegetation at the top. The design is reminiscent of the style of linocuts made by many Torres Strait Islander artists.

On the right hand side of the base in the brown is representative of the young men of Australian Aboriginal descent. The boomerang is a traditional hunting implement and the animal tracks of the kangaroo, emu, goanna and possum represents males, totems/ identity, food source, traditional hunting methods, learning of life skills.

The top left hand side represents the young Indigenous women who travel to the school. The digging sticks and the vegetation they gather to provide sustenance for their families and communities represent them.
Since the commencement of our Homework Club initiative, we have had a great response from our Early Junior Years Campuses. We would like to encourage our Middle Senior Years Students to attend too.

We have purchased 10 IPads for the Homework Club to support student learning through the many educational learning apps now available! It is also a great idea for our students to be I.T. savvy and keep up to date with technology.

Not only is the homework club a place where students can have access teacher support for their set homework and assessment but it is also an opportunity for students from across campuses to connect with one another. It is great to see the inter-campus friendships forming between students, parents and families.

As part of the homework club, we also like to incorporate cultural awareness and perspectives. This may be included through playing Traditional Indigenous games, learning dance or through art activities or projects at various times.

The session runs from 3.15pm - 4.45pm every Monday during the term and is held in the Learning Enrichment Centre on the De La Salle Campus. The bus collects students from both Mackillop and Delany campuses. A generous afternoon tea is provided for all students who attend. If your child has special dietary requirements, you will need to advise of these requirements and/or supply additional afternoon tea in your child’s lunchbox.

**MEDICATION** - If your child requires medication throughout the school day ie. Epipen/Asthma medication - It is essential this medication be brought to the homework help centre each Monday. Please ensure you speak to your teacher or campus secretary to ensure this medication is with your child for Monday afternoon.

**COLLECTION OF STUDENTS** - Parents are asked to remain outside of the Learning Enrichment Centre until the Homework session has finished at 4.45pm unless a prior arrangement has been made. This is to ensure there is minimal disruption to the program.

**ATTENDANCE** - if your child is currently attending the Homework Club - IT IS IMPORTANT TO ADVISE IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ATTENDING each week. This is to ensure the afternoon collection of children is not disrupted by staff looking for children who are away sick or who may have other afternoon activities to attend.

Please talk to your children and encourage their participation in the Homework Club as this is a valuable opportunity for additional academic support for your child.

Contact Mr. Brown or Ms. McMurtrie for a permission slip to be signed and returned for participation in Term 3. Homework Club recommences Monday 8th July (Day 1, Week 1, Term 3).
This wonderful new children’s picture book incorporates words from the language of the Gubbi Gubbi people, as advised by Dr Eve Fesl, Traditional Elder and linguist. Illustrator Bianca Clark made her art work traditional and modern.

DATES / TIMES
Caboolture Library
10 July 2013, 10.00am - 10.30am
Cost
Free
Bookings
Bookings for this event are required.
Contact
Caboolture Library
(07) 5433 2000
Caboolture.library@moretonbay.qld.gov.au