WUNYA and WELCOME to the final edition of our community newsletter for 2014. This year has had many highlights. We have continued to grow our cultural landscape including the development of more visible cultural spaces. One particular highlight is the creation of our Woomba Teilah garden situated at the De La Salle Campus. This is a special place where our College Community is reminded of our continuing commitment to valuing and celebrating cultural diversity. This space has meaning and significance far greater than just being a garden. Beneath the coats of paint and mulch lies a much deeper meaning. This space symbolises our college’s cultural growth and commitment to Indigenous education, building bridges and walking the pathway to authentic Reconciliation. The garden displays the colours of our mother earth, the saltwater on our doorstep and local native vegetation. Surrounding the circular garden are words provided by our students and staff reflecting their feelings and perceptions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures and Reconciliation.

A large colourful wall mounted cross is symbolic of our Catholic Faith; the very foundation upon which our college is built. In the centre of the cross is a circle, which is symbolic for a meeting place, our college; a place of story telling, education, passing down of ancient wisdom and imparting laws. The image in the centre of the circle represents the Redcliffe area and our Southern Cross. Making their way to the place of learning are the footprints of our young people with the ochre colours representing their spiritual journey. The blue colour represents our Torres Strait Islander youth; people of the salt water and tropical vegetation. The hand murals found at the rear of the garden have been created by and for our Damascus program where year 9 students pledge their commitment to Reconciliation after completing their 6 week Yarning Circle module.

We sincerely thank artist Deb Taylor, who worked with myself to develop a space that is both vibrant and welcoming whilst permeating deeper meaning and symbolism. We are blessed to have developed a strong relationship with Deb and hope to continue our connection for future projects.

Although the name of the garden is yet to be officially placed, Uncle Peter Bird, our local community Elder and Senior Elder of the Parmanyungan Council of Elders chose the name “Woomba Teilah”. Woomba is an Aboriginal word meaning “gathering place of young warriors” and Teilah is a Hebrew word meaning “healing hands of God”. This name aptly chosen to reflect the significance and meaning of our young students (or warriors) gathering, reflecting, learning and walking together in unity. We look forward to growing our native vegetation in our Woomba Teilah garden and maintaining this reflective space for our young warriors and for our whole Southern Cross Catholic College community to both embrace and enjoy. Creative reflective spaces such as our garden is a visual reminder of how we as a community respect and value our First Nations People; our culture, our stories and history.

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our families, staff and community for your continuing support and efforts to enhance our College’s cultural landscape during 2014. We truly are leading the way by example of what a community can achieve when we have positive and supportive leadership and a cohesive community that works and walks together in partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and relaxing break with your families, friends and communities and look forward to a bright New Year full of growth and positivity in 2015!

Mary McMurtrie
Support Teacher
Indigenous Education
We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our dedicated volunteers who support our students every week. Without your generosity and commitment we would not be able to provide such a valuable program.

Our sincerest of thanks to the following staff and students:

**STAFF:**
- Ms. Latha Guitto (School Officer, De La Salle Campus)
- Ms. Annette Wallace-Nash (School Officer, Frawley Campus)
- Ms. Kathy Banney (School Officer, Frawley Campus)
- Ms. Ruby Reid (School Officer, De La Salle Campus)
- Cameela Louisa Phipps (ACU Pre-service Teacher)
- Regina Camp (ACU Pre-service Teacher)

**PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS**
- Aunty Shirley Law

**STUDENTS:**
- Jasmine Maynard (Year 12)
- Jade Daley (Year 12)
- Lavana Letatau (Year 12)
- Brooke Kentish-Boyle (Year 12)
- Lachlan Johnson (Year 11)
- Juanita Graham (Year 9)
- Nikola Keys (Year 9)
- Roisin Wallace-Nash (Year 7)
- Tim Smith-Wilkinson (Year 8)

We are truly grateful for your efforts, commitment and support each and every week.

**DEADLY READING CHALLENGE Feedback**

Our Deadly Reading Challenge held during Term 3 has been a great success! We have received many positive reports from parents, students and teachers about the program! We were privileged to have Petero Civoniceva and Yvette D’Ath involved and look forward to growing the Challenge in 2015. **Well Done Students!**

We look forward to continuing our DEADLY HOMEWORK Program in 2015!
Ngutana-Lui marks milestone

TWENTY-five years of promoting cultural knowledge, understanding and respect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in Catholic schools has been celebrated at Ngutana-Lui.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders joined staff from BCEO and current and former staff and friends of the cultural centre atinals for a liturgy led by Fr Gerry Hefferan.

Ngutana-Lui, which means “to teach” was, and still is, unique in that it was the first initiative by Catholic Education in Brisbane and the State to implement Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies in programs from their own perspective.

The centre was established by the combined efforts of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council and the commitment of Brisbane Catholic Education.

The two bodies answered the call for action by all indigenous community groups and organisations regarding the implementation of Aboriginal and Torres Islander cultural studies and histories in school curricula.

At the time it was felt the establishment of such a unique centre would set a precedent for other centres to open, not only in the state but also in other parts of Australia.

The aim was to promote reconciliation through education and develop and enhance cultural knowledge, understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Following the liturgy Fr Hefferan blessed the centre’s new Traditional Story

Teaching Area and BCE Executive Director Pam Betts and Indigenous elder and former pupil of Brisbane’s Lourdes Hill College, Aunty Joan Hendriks, unveiled a plaque.

Ms Betts said it was fitting the 25th anniversary milestone was marked in such a fitting way.

She said over its 25 years more than 200,000 visitors have participated in the centre’s programs.

“This concept, which began back in the late 1980s as part of a bicentennial project, has grown from strength to strength over the past quarter century.

“With the on-going support of Brisbane Catholic Education and those within our communities, we are looking forward to the next 25 years,” she said.
The beautiful piece of Indigenous artwork created by Krystal Wighton and the Prep students has been completed and it is now ready to be displayed. The symbols in the picture are representative of aspects of the College and the Mackillop campus, with the Cross in the college colours being central to the design. It is a most impressive work of art and we are most grateful to Krystal for sharing her talents with us.

Earlier this year our Year 2-6 students embarked upon a journey to the Southside of Brisbane to visit Brisbane Catholic Education’s Cultural Centre; Ngutana Lui (meaning “To Teach”). Throughout the day students actively participated in a full day’s program of cultural experiences including:

- Boomerang Throwing
- Traditional Dancing
- Art Workshops
- Yarning with Elders
- Stories from the Torres Strait Islands
- Native walks identifying local native vegetation
- Locating and tasting bush tucker
- Sampling native foods
- Weaving
- Learning local stories and histories

Ngutana Lui – “To Teach”
Congratulations to Lachlan Johnson Year 11, Jasmine Maynard Year 12 and Nikola Keys Year 9 as recipients of various awards during the year. Lachlan received the Future Leaders Indigenous Award 2015 along with a Community Participation Award. Jasmine Maynard Year 12 received The Principal’s Award 2014 and Nikola Keys Year 9 received Brisbane Catholic Education’s Prize for Art Award 2014. CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE!
Teaching wasn’t my first option as a career; in fact, I’m not sure where it sat in order of choices... somewhere behind zookeeper, test pilot and Greenpeace volunteer. I couldn’t really think of specific teachers who inspired me to follow in their footsteps and the subjects just weren’t that exciting, nor did I see my reality in them. The opportunity to change that became my motivation to become a teacher.

I started a Diploma of Teaching Early Childhood at the then Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education (now QUT) at the age of 18, and although not the most studious of students, I began to realise the potential teaching had. After positions at various schools from Cairns to Highgate Hill and other roles within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, I am now an Education Officer with Brisbane Catholic Education, and that potential is being realised on a larger, more inspiring scale. Now I have the opportunity to use the story of our First Peoples as a basis for developing authentic and positive learning for all students that pays attention to our diversity whilst being delivered with respect and integrity. This learning isn’t just for students either; many teachers are also learning about the true Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contemporary contexts for the first time.

Being a mother of four boys who are all very individual has a grounding effect, to say the least. Add seven older brothers and sisters and two wonderfully talented and wise parents, I was able to benefit from the wisdom that was handed down from them all. Mum being Eastern Torres Strait Islander with Indonesian, Danish and Sri Lankan heritage and Dad being English and Irish ancestry born on Wiradjuri Country, provided us with a perspective that wasn’t just from experience but also from a culture that respected tradition and the land. Growing up in Redcliffe had its highs and lows like any town, but I am thankful for the friendships and beautiful environment that we are blessed to live in. During the time I was at Redcliffe State High School the Kath Walker Hostel was operating opposite Suttons Beach which saw a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boys come to Redcliffe High from communities all over Queensland. This allowed us to have contact with the boys and for my Mum particularly, to connect with the children and grandchildren of her friends from the Torres Straits. Stories were shared and people were connected. This passing down of stories amongst family and friends is where I think the true nature of teaching called to me. I learnt from these times that the secret of good teaching was being able to engage in a relationship with the learner that captured their interest and fuelled a desire to find out more.

Fast forward to today and working as an Education Officer for Brisbane Catholic Education (BCE). I believe BCE honestly attempts to pay homage to Australia’s First Peoples and is working towards creating a new story together. BCE does not claim to mirror perfection in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, but is genuine in its willingness to learn and walk together. This is demonstrated in the ability we have to co-construct the future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education within this system and that is exciting. And most importantly it is thanks to the likes of Mary McMurtrie and others who give their best to help Indigenous families and students begin their first year of school or embark on their post-school journey with pride and culture intact through the sharing of stories and making connections.

Georgina Kadel - Education Officer Curriculum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education
From a very young age I have developed a strong curiosity and desire to listen and learn from the stories of others. Particularly stories of those who have walked humbly and with such humility whilst leaving imprints upon society coloured with true spirit, strength and messages of hope. I am always taken back by hearing of their journeys and how they have walked with such spirit and strived to be who they are today regardless of what seems to be sometimes insurmountable hurdles and setbacks along their paths. As a painfully quiet girl I listened more often than speaking and was often lost in the experiences and stories from others.

I firmly believe this sense of intrigue has stemmed from my deep sense of social justice emanating from my own personal family background and coupled with my educational upbringing that was steeped in strong Catholic ethos to always act justly, advocate for those without a voice and give hope where there seems to be no light.

After recently reading a book authored by Aboriginal Elder Elizabeth Pike called “The Power of Story; Spirit of Dreaming” I have come to realise that no matter how many hours we work, how many meetings we have or how many emails we send, the power of listening to others stories is a real way to connect with one another personally. Sadly, in reality we sometimes only hear of the depth of greatness of people when we are listening to their Eulogy.

One story in particular pulled on my heart strings; a story about “The Richest Old Woman Around: Evelyn Crawford. The following is an extract from one of the chapters;

“The Australian Film Rabbit Proof Fence is a must see movie about three young Aboriginal girls making an epic journey. They walked for nine weeks to get back to their own Country, after being forcibly removed from their families. This film reminded me in many ways of a story about Evelyn Crawford, a remarkable Baarkanji woman from New South Wales. Evelyn was born under a gum tree, and her family moved to the government mission when she was about eight, though she had no certainty about when she was born.

Then came the time when pale-skinned children were being taken from their families. Some of the parents escaped from the mission, taking eleven children with them. Three were very dark and could remain on top of the cart, while the others—a boy aged thirteen, a girl eleven, Evelyn about nine and five younger ones—were hidden under a false floor. Once safely away from the mission they walked barefoot in blazing summer heat over an eleven day period, hiding by day when necessary and also walking by night until they reached safety, a journey of 1245 kilometres.

Evelyn tells it her way. ‘You know, I never knew how old I was. I never knew the date or the year. My mum told me I was born in their tent and she was helped by the old grannies—the Aboriginal midwives’.

It was incredible how she finally found out her age. One day in 1985, Evelyn was going back to Broken Hill from Brewarrina where she had been working, and she passed Rossmore station, just out of Burke. Driving into the station, she asked the young fellow who now owned the property, ‘Who was the boss around the 1930’s? He replied, ‘My grandfather. They lived in that old house over there. Why?’

‘I was born in a tent under those trees near that tank over there, me and my sister,’ Evelyn said. ‘Is that so? Come on over to my Grandma’s old house and see if we can find anything. The old station books are still there.’ In the room that had been the station office they found the old station book, and written on one page it had:

- Born to Station; Calves - 9, Lambs - 28, Foals - 2,
- Born to Hannah Black and Jack Mallyer - one girl baby.

There it was on the station ledger as part of the stock. The date was 18th May 1928. So that was the day Evelyn henceforth kept as her birthday until she was fifty-eight. Her cousins, aunties and uncles were all in that stock book. The young owner was quite shocked and offered the book to Evelyn to keep.

That little girl, reared in Traditional Aboriginal values, married and raised seven daughters, six sons and a granddaughter in those same values. Evelyn deeply mourned the death of her husband. Becoming a teacher’s aide that little girl, reared in Traditional Aboriginal values, married and raised seven daughters, six sons and a granddaughter in those same values. Evelyn deeply mourned the death of her husband. Becoming a teacher’s aide helping Evelyn through her mourning, and she became an outstanding Aboriginal Educator, for which she was awarded the Order of Australia (OA), and met the Queen at the opening of Darling Harbour in Sydney. Queen Elizabeth said to her, ‘Remember you are a very special person.’ To which Evelyn replied, ‘We all are, because there’s only one of each of us. There’s only one of you, and there’s only one of me’. Her wisdom permeates in all her words. In her memoir, Evelyn writes…”I’m pretty lucky, haven’t got much money, but with the friends I’ve got, all the respect and love I’ve had, and with thinking about all the happenings and people who are all part of me who’s here now, I’d be the richest old woman around. (Over My Tracks, Penguin, 1993).

Evelyn’s warmth, humour and wisdom, as a bush woman, wife, mother of fourteen children, teller of yarns, and educator, as well as her unshakable belief that prejudice grows from ignorance, has brought many to a better understanding of Aboriginal people. Truly a woman to remember.’

Mary McMurtie
The Year 9 Damascus Program runs over the year where each student participates in 6 week block rotations on various subjects. Each rotation aims to develop the skills and attributes such as responsibility; communication; planning and organisation; flexibility; decision making; problem solving and creative thinking; working with others and in teams and active participation.

In the Yarning Circle module, components of both historical and contemporary Aboriginal Culture are explored through a variety of mediums. Students actively participate in a range of cultural activities including spending time with guest speakers from Gubbi Gubbi Country; piccabeen basket making, boomerang throwing, spear throwing, creative arts, local story telling, traditional fire making and local rope making techniques.

Students are encouraged to explore and acquire deeper knowledge, understanding and empathy towards cultural diversity through different perspectives including sharing of stories and experiences, looking at our national history and self reflection in a safe environment.

Students are encouraged to reflect on various concepts such as Racism, Identity, Self Empowerment and Personal Attitudes through various activities interwoven throughout the program.

Once students complete the module, they are encouraged to pledge their own personal commitment to Reconciliation.
Success is a Journey, not a destination...

My name is Jasmine Maynard, I am a proud Indigenous student currently in Year 12 at Southern Cross Catholic College. My Country is Bundjalung, northern New South Wales. My Grandmother, a proud Bundjalung woman, was taken from her Country when young. She was part of the Stolen Generation. My family have always shared with me her story and about our culture.

It is important for each of us to recognise the First Peoples of this nation and celebrate culture together, learning from one another. I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land and pay respects to our Elders, past, present and future. As young Indigenous people we deeply respect and value our Elders as they are our knowledge keepers and the ones who guide us on our journeys. They show us the ways to keeping our culture strong.

Since my time as a student at Southern Cross, I have been given the opportunity to embrace my identity and be proud of my culture. Our college community is a place where cultural diversity is embraced and where the values of respect and equality are at the forefront of our college mission. We live and breathe this every day. We have special ceremonies, days of acknowledgement, we celebrate our successes and are mentored to be the best we can be. Our College connects with our wider Indigenous communities to deepen cultural understandings and enhance opportunities for all students, and this is how we, together as a community, embrace our Indigenous brothers and sisters and unite as one. I have been given the opportunity to share my culture and also mentor our younger Indigenous students through our College programs such as the Homework Club and through Dance. We are truly blessed to have a strong connection with our Elders who are committed to sharing culture through education for the benefit of ALL students and communities.

Jasmine Maynard Year 12 Graduate 2014

Woomba Teilah Garden Opening

Year 12 Graduation Liturgy
St. Stephen’s Cathedral 17th October 2014

This year sees two of our Year 12 students graduate; Jasmine Maynard and Ally Gardiner. As part of our annual Graduation Celebrations, one particular highlight is the culminating gathering of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across Brisbane Catholic Education. This special day is the opportunity to unite as one in thanks and celebration with families and staff.

On the 17th October, St. Stephen’s Cathedral was filled with community Elders, families, staff and students where a Traditional Welcome dance was performed and a Reverend Archbishop Mark Coleridge presided the Liturgy. Students united to both acknowledge and celebrate their achievements and prayed together for their successes and for their new journey commencing.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and families gather as one to celebrate the accomplishments and determination of completing their studies whilst acknowledging the opportunities provided by Brisbane Catholic Education where their identity and culture is highly valued, respected and celebrated.

We would especially like to THANK our Southern Cross 2015 Student Leaders and Leadership Staff Team for their genuine interest, support and efforts to attend this special occasion marked on the College Calendar every year. Your generosity and spirit is greatly appreciated.

Thank you Mr. Myers for continuing to value and respect our Stories, our Culture, our Spirit and our Identity as Southern Cross Graduates.
Our Cultural Dance Group (Yet to be officially named) has grown in numbers and confidence this year. We have been rehearsing some traditional dances and given numerous opportunities to perform at various events including the Lasallian Youth Gathering Mercure Hotel Brisbane, Patron’s Day, the Woombah Teilah Garden Opening and the Catholic Education Week Ceremony. We look forward to developing our repertoire of dances and continuing on our path to building pride and sharing our culture through dance and story telling.

Girls Night Out….BANGARRA Dance Theatre Production “Patyegarang”

Girls from Years 5-12 were invited to attend the special dance production Patyegarang at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, South Brisbane performed by the Bangarra Dance Theatre Company.

Patyegarang is a story of a young Aboriginal girl’s connection with a young European man during the period of colonisation in 1788.

The audience is taken on a journey through an artistic and emotional dance performance where they witness the development of a very quiet and special friendship against the disruption of colonisation and the extraordinary collision of cultures during this time.

The girls were entranced by the production and loved the way dance and movement conveyed such meaning and emotion through dance. The girls look forward to the next Bangarra Dance Performances in the future.
To all of our Families and Friends...

May you be surrounded by the warmth and comfort of your families and friends during this special time of year.

We wish you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and Happy New Year...

See you in 2015!

The BEATTY DANCE CREW come to SCCC

We were privileged to have the Beatty Dance Crew visit our Homework Club during the year. The programme included both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands cultures – songs and dances focusing on Australia’s unique native animals and also Torres Strait playdances. Taryn Laleen Beatty is of Torres Strait Island descent on her mother’s side (Moa & Darnley Islands) and Aboriginal descent from her father’s family (Wuthathi Tribe). Taryn was born in Mossman (Kuku Yalangi), 80km north of Cairns (Yidinji), Queensland. Taryn graduated from NAISDA Dance College and has since performed and taught extensively, including performing with the acclaimed Bangarra Dance Company at the Closing Ceremony of the Atlanta Olympic Games. Taryn started a family dance group called InDidgDance which includes Tapalinga and Xing-Yee Piriotha (Ninni) who are very proud ambassadors of their Indigenous cultures and members of the Gondwana Indigenous children’s choir.

This Dance Workshop complemented an additional afternoon workshop run by Georgina Kadel from Brisbane Catholic Education. Georgina is a proud Torres Islander woman who shared her stories and songs with our children.

Thank you Georgina and Beatty Dance Crew!

The Murri Medical Health and Dental Team were on site at SCCC to conduct comprehensive health and dental checks for our students and families. At our next Community Meeting, we will discuss outcomes of this pilot program and decide together as a community, as to whether we will continue with this on-site annual health check program. We look forward to receiving your feedback on this initiative.

Stay Tuned!