

Term 3 Week 10 2024

# YENMALALIBYLIA STEPS LET'S WALK TOGETHER

**WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are warned that the following program may contain images and voices of deceased persons.**

## Warami and Welcome

to our

**St Clair and Erskine Park Schools (StEPs)**

**Jnr AECG newsletter.**


**Term 3, 2024**



We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we learn and play on, the Darug people, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

## Our Vision

The idea for our newsletter came about during one of the teacher's STePs meetings where ideas were discussed and shared for Reconciliation Week 2022. The theme for Reconciliation Week 2022 was 'Be Brave, Make Change'. As a group, we agreed starting a newsletter for our community created by our students was 'brave' and sharing information, events and news from the STePS schools and our local community would bring about the 'change' we wanted to see. We are aiming to give our students and communities a voice and to build and strengthen relationships.



## What is the Junior Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group?

The Junior Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group (AECG) is a group made up of Aboriginal students from all seven schools in the STePS community. They range in age from 11 to 18 years.

The aims of the Junior AECG is

- To ensure Aboriginal Cultures are represented and embedded throughout the school environment and curriculum.
- To empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through real and active participation in school decision-making.
- To provide a platform for Aboriginal student voice.
- To advocate for Aboriginal Education.

Our Junior AECG members meet together once a term to represent the Aboriginal students' voices of their schools and share their ideas and opinions.

The next student meeting will be held in Week 8 Term 4 at James Erskine Public School



# Junior Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group Executive Team

Meet our Junior AECG Executive team which includes a President, Vice-President and Secretary. (Left to right)

Our President - Liam Year 11 EPHS High School

Our Vice President - Ruby Year 6 JEPS

Our Secretaries - Jessica Year 9 EPHS





This edition, schools wanted to showcase some of the amazing activities they have been doing in Term 3 around STePs community events such as BroSpeak and SistaSpeak.

**If you are a member of or know a member of the Aboriginal community who is interested in contributing or providing guidance or suggestions for our STePs community we would love to hear from you.**

The collage features the following posters:

- MUSIC PROGRAM:** "Come along and join us for a musical experience in playgroup!"
- DIDGE CLASS:** "Learn and discover a piece of Indigenous art from a didgeridoo." Includes a photo of a man playing a didgeridoo.
- ABORIGINAL SMART Recovery Program:** "4 Point Program" for recovery from alcohol and other substances.
- INDIGENOUS PEACEMAKERS PARENTS:** "A free program for parents to learn skills to help their children manage conflict." Includes a photo of a woman and child.
- KOORI CUPPA WOMEN'S GROUP:** "A free program for women to connect, share, and support each other." Includes a photo of women sitting around a table.
- KOOLY DEADLY KIDS DANCE GROUP with Jessy:** "A dance program for children to learn traditional and contemporary dance." Includes a photo of children dancing.
- Aboriginal Art Class with Bryce Boozy:** "Learn to create your own Indigenous artwork." Includes a photo of a man painting.
- KOORI YOUTH DROP IN:** "For youth aged 12 years & over!"
- ABORIGINAL CARERS GROUP:** "Are you a carer or at risk of being a carer?"
- Steps to Healing:** "A program to help you manage your mental health." Includes a photo of people in a group.

Each poster includes the NCNS logo and the slogan "Respect. Relevance. Reconciliation." The background of the collage is a dark pattern of concentric circles and dots.

Artwork by Jordan Lovegrove - Ngarrindjeri



# BANKS PUBLIC SCHOOL

## TERM 3, 2024

### NAIDOC Day

To celebrate NAIDOC at Banks, students were immersed in activities related to this year's theme Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud.

Some of the activities included reading Dreaming stories in our Yarning Circle, creating artworks which represent connection and wellbeing and learning phrases and words in our local Dharug language.

All students had an amazing day learning about our First Nations history and culture.



# WARAMI MIITIGAR BUDYARI NAAMI DARUG NURAWA - GOOD TO SEE YOU ON DARUG LAND



## TERM 3 AT BLACKWELL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Term 3 has been another productive term here at Blackwell. We have loved going to Bro Speak and enjoyed meeting other StEPs students. Designing and painting our own didges was a highlight. At Sista Speak the girls enjoyed the chat and yarns and visting our two local high schools. Thanks to all staff who make this possible.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### STAGE 3

Stage 3 have had a great time being involved in some crazy games first played by our First Nations groups.



### STAGE 2

Stage 2 have all been very keen to have Mr Trist visit their classes each Thursday.



### MR STEVE TRIST

Stage 2 and 3 have had the pleasure of weekly classroom visits from Steve Trist. Mr Trist has been teaching us about hunting, traditions, storytelling and has brought in artefacts like boomerangs and kangaroo skins which students could interact with. Students created artwork using their own interpretations of traditional stories, experimenting with the use of Aboriginal symbols to share a message. Steve put on some performances playing instruments such as the didgeridoo and taught the history and customs regarding music in Aboriginal culture. A BIG thank you to Steve for sharing his fountain of knowledge.



## COCKATOO ISLAND

Late last term we enjoyed a special excursion to Cockatoo Island. We travelled by train and ferry on a great sunny day to explore one of the larger islands in our harbour. We spent the day exploring convict buildings, underground tunnels, the remains of shipbuilding and the native flora and fauna. Mr Trist was an excellent guide and pointed out how plants were used for a variety of purposes including a hair comb and medicine. The best part of the day was the "Marry Me" signwriting above the Harbour Bridge that prompted Mr Trist to talk about how young men and women married a long time ago. We loved to take in the cities sights and we can't wait for our next trip to Lizard Log!

# CLAIRGATE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Term 3, 2024

## NAIDOC Week

Clairgate PS had a fantastic week delving into the importance of culture, respect and acknowledgment.



All classes across our great school developed their own Acknowledgment of Country. Classes individually researched aspects of our local area and used this as inspiration to create the documents. The entire school presented their Acknowledgment of Country at a moving assembly which was run by four of our senior Rainbow Lorikeets. They now proudly hang in our classrooms.





# Erskine Park High School

## Warami!

At the start of this term Erskine Park High School held our NAIDOC Day celebration. We had students who spoke about what NAIDOC means to them and what this year's theme "keep the fire burning. Blak Loud and Proud" means to them and the Significance it has within the Aboriginal community. We then had our Aboriginal Dance group perform.



For our NAIDOC celebrations students participated in an **Art competition** where they drew either traditional aboriginal art that was meaningful to them or they did an artwork that aligned with the theme "Keep the fire burning Blak Loud and Proud" we had over 30 students select to participate, and the results were amazing.



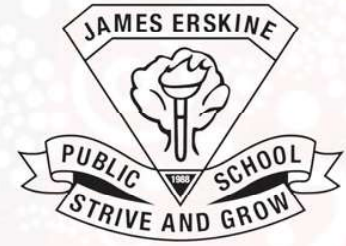
Year 9 and 10 students attended the **Western Sydney Uni Pathways to Dreaming excursion to Sydney Zoo**. The students learnt Traditional dance, sat through a storytelling workshop learning about all different dreamtime stories and learnt about different types of bush tucker and their uses.



This term students worked with **Greening Australia** to plant native trees, plants and bush tucker throughout the school. We have planted large trees to grow on the oval to provide more shade during summer. There are native and smaller plants planted in your new yarning circle and we have planted bush tucker in our garden beds that we hope to use for cooking and education throughout the school.



# TERM 3, 2024



# JAMES ERSKINE

# PUBLIC SCHOOL

## STEPS MUSIC FESTIVAL

THIS TERM, OUR ABORIGINAL DANCE GROUP PERFORMED AT THE STEPS MUSIC FESTIVAL. THEY PROUDLY OPENED THE FESTIVAL, PERFORMING ALONGSIDE UNCLE STEVE. WHAT A FANTASTIC NIGHT! WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS FOR BEING PROUD, COURAGEOUS AND CONFIDENT!



## NAIDOC WEEK

AT THE END OF TERM 2, OUR SCHOOL CELEBRATED NAIDOC WEEK. WE HAD AN AMAZING WEEK, ENGAGING IN MANY DIFFERENT CULTURAL ACTIVITIES THAT ENHANCED OUR APPRECIATION AND KNOWLEDGE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURE AND HISTORIES. WE ALSO HAD OUR ABORIGINAL DANCERS BEGIN OUR WEEK BY OPENING OUR NAIDOC ASSEMBLY WITH CULTURAL DANCES.

SOME ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

BOOMERANG THROWING, SPEAR THROWING, BUSH TUCKER TASTING, MOB HOPSCOTCH, TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL GAMES, BUDDY READING OF DREAMING STORIES, BOOMERANG PAINTING, BEADING AND WEAVING AND A WHOLE SCHOOL MURAL WITH MINI CANVAS PAINTINGS.

## DHARUG LANGUAGE

THIS YEAR, ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF AT JEPS ARE LEARNING TO USE DHARUG LANGUAGE. WE HAVE STARTED LEARNING DHARUG PHRASES AND ARE EXCITED TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHERS.

NAABAWUNYA: SEE YOU LATER	NGAYA BUDYARI I AM GOOD	NGYINI BUDYARI ARE YOU GOOD?
NAABAWUNYA BARIBUGU: SEE YOU TOMORROW	NGAYA GIYARA: MY NAME IS	
NGAAN NGYINI GIYARA: WHAT IS YOUR NAME	BUDYARI MULLINAWUL GOOD MORNING	

## COMING TO JEPS NANDYINYANG

WE ARE EXCITED TO OPEN OUR NANDYINYANG CLASSES. NANDYINYANG IS A DHARUG WORD FOR 'WE ALL WALK'. THIS REPRESENTS HOW WE ALL WALK TOGETHER AS ONE.





# St Clair High School

During the school year St Clair High School students and staff have acknowledged and celebrated events and dates that are significant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## NAIDOC WEEK 2024: Damper and weaving activities



## Pathways to dreaming: Western Sydney Zoo Cultural Experience



## Bennett Road Public School Multicultural Day: SCHS Aboriginal dance group performance



## Bro & Sista Speak: Congrats to our Aboriginal students for completing the 2024 Bro and Sista speak program



# What's been happening at St Clair Public School...

At the end of Term 2, the whole school had a fantastic time celebrating NAIDOC. The 2024 theme is Keep the fire burning! Blak, loud and proud. The theme honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture - with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



# What's been happening at St Clair Public School..

We are incredibly proud of our Stage 3 students who participated in the BroSpeak and SistaSpeak programs!

The goal of these programs is to encourage our First Nation students to take pride in their achievements, both at school and within the wider community. Throughout these programs, students strengthen their Aboriginal identity, built connections to culture, and developed confidence and belief in themselves.



BroSpeak

Stage 3, 2024



SistaSpeak

Stage 3, 2024



TERM 3, 2024

# BROSPEAK

# 2024

IN TERM 3, WE CONTINUED OUR BROSPEAK PROGRAM. THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE GIVES ABORIGINAL BOYS IN YEARS 5, 6 AND 7 THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN CULTURE, DEVELOP FRIENDSHIPS, AND BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE IN THEMSELVES. WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR BOYS FOR THEIR DEDICATION, APPRECIATION AND RESPECT WHEN LEARNING ABOUT THEIR CULTURE.

WE CELEBRATED THE COMPLETION OF BROSPEAK IN WEEK 2 WITH A YARNING CIRCLE WHERE ALL BOYS RECEIVED THEIR DIDGE AND A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION. WE ALSO HAD A BBQ BREAKFAST WITH OUR FAMILIES. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PROGRAM CONTINUING NEXT YEAR.



# Sista Speak 24'

Congratulations to our STePs community Aboriginal girls who completed the 2024 Sista Speak program. Thank you to all staff involved, we can't wait to get Sista Speak 2025 up and running next year.





**TANYA DAVIES MP**

Member for Badgerys Creek  
NSW Parliament House  
Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000

**SISTA SPEAK PROGRAM**

**COMMUNITY RECOGNITION STATEMENT**

**15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024**

**TANYA DAVIES MP**

**Mrs TANYA DAVIES (Badgerys Creek)**—My congratulations to the students at St Clair High School, Erskine Park High School, Clairgate Public School, Blackwell Public School, James Erskine Public School, and Banks Public School on completing the Sista Speak program recently. Sista Speak is a program for young Aboriginal girls that encourages self-respect, respect for others, resilience, developing positive relationships and life skills. A key focus is also on helping students to connect and be proud of their rich culture and traditions. I commend all the students for their commitment to undertaking this program and encourage them to utilise the skills and techniques they have learnt from the Sista Speak program as they continue through their school years and beyond.



# LORE

by  
Uncle Wes Marne

He walked away at sun up  
His step was long and strong  
He waved his hand in a gesture  
It meant "come follow on."

He lifted his eyes to the mountains  
Then upwards to the sky  
He looked for clouds in the distance  
To see if a storm was high.

He strolled as I ran beside him  
He smiled with his hand on my head  
"Whatever you get from this place,  
Only take what you need.

Whatever you take from this beautiful place  
Remember you have to earn."  
I listened hard to what he said  
and tried my best to learn.

He stopped and pointed to places -  
To places I shouldn't go  
He led me along the pathways  
And told me what I should know.

He turned around at sundown  
He said, "Now we're going home  
Remember what I've told and showed you  
One day you'll be on your own."

# Appreciating our Dharug Language



Some common Dharug phrases our STEPS schools regularly use

**Ngandu-** sorry

**Didjarigora** - thank you

**Warami** - welcome

**Yanu** - goodbye

**Mittigar** - friends

**Didjurigura** - thank you

**Budyari millinawul** - good morning

**Budaryi gumara** - good afternoon

**Gulyangarri** - children

**Babana** - brother

**Djurumin** - sister

**Wiyana** - mother / mum

**Dyinguranang** - grandmother / nan

**Gumang** - grandfather / pop

**Biyana** - father / dad



# Kimberwalli Academy for Excellence

Cultural and Wellbeing Programs for Term 4

## Tuesday

### DIDGE

Boys and Men  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week  
Didgeridoo Playing  
Program  
Facilitated by  
Brendon Lewis



### CONTEMPORARY ART

High School Girls  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week  
Contemporary Art  
Program  
Facilitated by  
Jannine Richardson



### SEWING

Adult Class  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week  
Sewing Program  
Facilitated by  
Emily Pires



### WOMENS FITNESS

16 years and older  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week  
Circuit  
Style/Bootcamp  
Program  
Facilitated by  
Christine bolt



### HIGH SCHOOL BOYS

High School Boys  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week  
Cultural  
Dance/Art/Remote  
Control Cars  
Program  
Facilitated by  
Steve Trist and  
Jamie Eastwood



# Kimberwalli Academy for Excellence

Cultural and Wellbeing Programs for Term 4

## Wednesday

### GIRLS CULTURAL DANCE

School Years K-12  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week Program  
Learn traditional  
Gomerol songs and  
dances.  
Facilitated by  
Jayde and Alkira  
Field

### ABORIGINAL GO4FUN

Ages 7-13  
10 week Program  
Learn healthy eating  
while trying new  
recipes; learn new  
activities that you can  
do at home with your  
family  
Facilitated by  
WSLHD Staff

### ADULT CULTURAL ART

Adult Class  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week Program  
Learn traditional  
Aboriginal and  
contemporary art  
and create your own  
artwork  
Facilitated by  
Jamie Eastwood

### MENS FITNESS

16 years and older  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week  
Circuit  
Style/Bootcamp  
Program  
Facilitated by  
Christine Bolt

### CULTURAL DANCE

School Years K-12  
4pm - 6pm  
10 week Program  
Learn Aboriginal  
dance, songs and  
Dreamtime stories.  
Facilitated by  
Jirribidy Dancers

### RISING STARS

School Years K-12  
4pm - 5:30pm  
10 week Program  
Engage in sporting  
activities and fundamental  
gross motor skills  
development  
Facilitated by  
Brendon and  
Jasmin Lewis

# Some of our community initiatives



## KOOLYANGARRA ABORIGINAL FAMILY CENTRE

### PROGRAMS:

- Aboriginal Supported Playgroup – St Marys
- Aboriginal Supported Playgroup – Cranebrook
- Walan Mahlee Dance Group
- Aboriginal Carers Group
- Family Support
- Koori Cuppa Time
- Aboriginal Cultural Connections
- Aboriginal Mens Group
- Koolyangarra Outreach Services
- Aboriginal Dual Diagnosis Worker
- Steps to Healing
- SMART Recovery



**LINK-UP [NSW]**  
**Aboriginal Corporation**



**Sydney Region Aboriginal Corporation**



## Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service

Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service (GWAHS) delivers holistic comprehensive primary health care within the Western Sydney, Nepean and Blue Mountain Health Regions.

### Our Vision

Is to provide and be recognised for providing the Aboriginal community of Western Sydney with high quality, appropriate, efficient and effective primary health care and related services

### Our purpose

- To provide the highest standard of client care whilst incorporating a holistic approach toward diagnosis and management of illness
- We are committed to promoting health, wellbeing and disease prevention to all clients
- We do not discriminate in the provision of excellent care and aim to treat all clients with dignity and respect

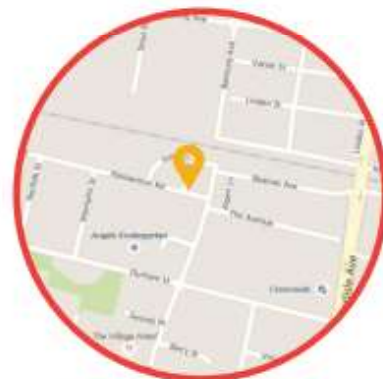
GWAHS – a Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service entity



### SERVICES PROVIDED

Transport | Social Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) | Child & Maternal Health | Health Checks | GP Management Plans | Women's Health | Men's Health | Immunisations  
Speech Therapy | Psychology | Dental Clinic  
Physiotherapy | Podiatry | Wound Care  
Pathology Services | ECG's | Paediatrician  
Chronic Disease Education/Support Groups  
Integrated Team Care Program  
Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program

Open Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm



2 Palmerston Rd  
PO Box 3160  
Mount Druit NSW 2770

02 9836 7300

02 9836 7399

enquiries@gwahs.net.au

[www.gwahs.net.au](http://www.gwahs.net.au)

[www.13yarn.org.au](http://www.13yarn.org.au)

Available 24/7

Confidential & anonymous

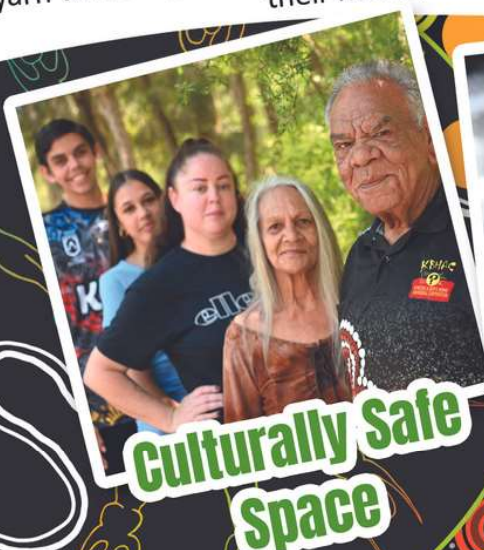
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporters

# 13 YARN

13 Yarn is the first national support line for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in crisis. We offer a confidential one-on-one over the phone yarning opportunity and support with a Lifeline trained Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter for mob who are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping. We are here to provide crisis support 24/7 to enable our community to yarn without judgement and provide a culturally safe space to yarn about their needs, worries or concerns.

"We're here to help, call us for a yarn"

13 92 76



Culturally Safe Space



Available 24/7 across Australia from any phone



We listen, without judgement or shame



This initiative is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health



Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

This service has been developed in collaboration with Gaaya Dhuwi