



# NUNGA NEWS

First Nation Stories  
Findon High School

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Number 2 | Term 2 2022



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## WELCOME TO NUNGA NEWS ISSUE 2

This has grown into a bumper issue of Nunga News. The news spans three terms from Term 4 last year to the end of Term 2, 2022.

Our cover photo shows Year 9 Adnyamathanha student Della at the Adelaide Botanical Gardens on a day of cultural learning. Della moved to Adelaide from Port Augusta last year. She enjoyed both her studies and friendships at Findon High School until this term when she enrolled into Charles Campbell College to continue her education closer to her new home. Della, we wish you every success in the future.

Since 2021, our Findon High School First Nations student community has grown from 25 to 38 students in Term 2 this year. This is 12% of our total enrolments, well above the state R-12 school percentage which is 6.5%. Happy reading everyone!

**WARNING:** This newsletter contains an image of a deceased First Nations Elder.

## HOW AND WHY WE TRACK LEARNING?

At the start of 2021, Steve and Judith started tracking the learning achievement of each one of our First Nations students.

- We started with 2020 semester one grades achieved, attendance rates, writing level, NAPLAN, PAT R and PAT M scores and update each semester.
- Last year we assigned English as an Additional Language levels to two quality writing samples from each First Nations student. While most First Nations students speak English as their first language, this fine grained analysis of each student's writing clearly shows where they are at and it also offers specific next learning steps that teachers can use to help students take their writing to the next level.
- Weekly homework tutorial sessions for First Nations students, provide extra help with school assignments and enables us to find out how students are going and share that with teachers who can give extra support if it's needed.
- The Findon High School Nunga News captures the range of learning that First Nations' students are involved in.
- One Plans are a new tool that involves students, teachers and families sharing about what the student needs and wants to learn both in and out of school. Ideally, students work with teachers to set and review goals that take the learning in a direction that the student needs and wants to go. One Plans are online so when a student changes schools their One Plan enables a smooth transition to their new school.

All of this information provides a reliable snapshot of each First Nation student's learning. It is valuable when we have learning discussions with students, families and teachers. It helps us understand what is working and what might need to be done differently.



# FIRST NUNGA PARENT JOINS FHS GOVERNING COUNCIL

## WELCOME TO BECC CLARK

We heartily welcome Becc Clark, parent of Allyra and Jamie to FHS Governing Council in 2022. The role of parents and caregivers on Governing Council is to work with Kathleen Hoare, our principal to develop and approve school policies and help to set the broad direction and vision of our school. The Governing Council meet twice a term.

If you are a parent or caregiver of a FHS First Nations student, we enthusiastically invite you to join too.



TORRENS PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS AT THE FIRST 2022 ABORIGINAL LEARNERS MEETING

## LEARNING TOGETHER TO HELP FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS THRIVE

Steve and Judith meet with ASETOs, ACEOs and AETs from nearby schools at Aboriginal Learner's Network meetings held each term. We share ideas and learn together about the best ways we can enable our First Nations students in our schools to achieve their personal best.



SOME WASSN FIRST NATIONS STUDENT SUPPORT NETWORK PARTICIPANTS IN 2021 AT WARRIAPPENDI. SCHOOL.

# KANYINI LOGO WORKSHOP AT FINDON HIGH SCHOOL

On November 9 last year, some First Nations students shared their ideas for the Kanyini satellite logo with the Space Agency Toolbox Graphic Design team in a workshop held at school. This followed on from our school winning the competition to name South Australia's first locally built satellite.

Pete Nikoloff, the SmartSat CRC Mission Director started off the workshop by explaining the Kanyini mission and what it aims to achieve. Next, we were delighted to have Bernard Singer, Chairperson of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Executive Board and Richard King General Manager APY Lands with us to share their hopes for the project. Then after learning how to get a design outcome for a new brand, students contributed their ideas. The Toolbox team will return with their mission branding designs.

RICHARD KING (LEFT) AND BERNARD SINGER (RIGHT)  
ADDRESS THE GROUP





# KANYINI LOGO WORKSHOP AT FINDON HIGH SCHOOL



DELLA AND LITORIA

The morning of the logo workshop was Litoria's first day at Findon High School. She has come from Mimili Anangu School and Bernard Singer who addressed the group is her grand father.



BRAEDAN, WESLEY AND FELICITY



# SAY HI TO OUR

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# YARNING CIRCLE

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## HOW AND WHY THE YARNING CIRCLE WAS CREATED

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Findon High School have had the incredible opportunity after the successful launch of our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to have Jack Buckskin carve a Kurna shield from one of trees leaving behind a magnificent scar tree. Alongside the scar tree we have created an amazing yarning circle.

The yarning circle is important to us for building relationships, trust and a sense of connectiveness. Yarning circles have been used to share stories and knowledge through generations, as most First Nations history has been shared through storytelling, art, song and dance.

The yarning circle is a great tool for learning in a safe, non-judgement and inclusive space where everyone's voice can be heard. Once it was completed, it has become a hive of activity with students curious, asking questions and classes enjoying the outdoor space.

We are so proud to acknowledge the many students, staff who did an outstanding job in constructing the yarning circle also to the Charles Sturt Council, Brocas, RAP committee and Findon High School leadership that came together to make this possible.

Afternoon shade on the yarning circle.  
Photo: Craig Pierce



# YARNING CIRCLE:

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LEFT: KOV, JAMIE, ALEXIS AND BRAEDAN PREPARING THE GROUND AND CONCRETING BRICKS INTO PLACE.

BELOW: BRAEDAN AND ALEXIS





# LABOUR OF LOVE



ABOVE: FELICITY AND MICHAEL

LEFT: CRAIG, MICHAEL FELICITY AND KOV

BELOW: THE RAP COMMITTEE CLOSE THEIR LAST MEETING OF 2021 AT THE NEWLY COMPLETED YARNING CIRCLE.





# SAASTA AND SAASTA CONNECT

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL SECONDARY TRAINING ACADEMY (SAASTA) CONNECT

This year, SAASTA Connect for Year 7 to Year 9 First Nations students began at Findon High School during Friday afternoon club time with 15 participants. Ghowrie, the teacher has incorporated a range of hands on learning about First Nations cultures and histories. Here students are making lemon myrtle biscuits.

Also, nine of our Year 10 to Year 12 First Nations students are participating in SAASTA courses at Para Hills and at Le Fevre high schools while continuing their studies at Findon High School. It is a great way to earn 20 SACE credits.



MICHAEL AND KADEN



RAYMOND



ANTON AND LITORIA



# FHS WELCOMES ALLYRA

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## STUDENT PROFILE

My name is Allyra, I'm currently in Year 10 and fairly new to the school only starting in Term 4 of 2021.

My culture is very important to me and to be able to learn, express and experience that during high school is a priority for me. I chose to go to Findon High as the school really values First Nations people and is a culturally safe environment. So far at Findon I have enjoyed being part of the construction of the yarning circle, the homework club and all of the excursions.

My favourite excursion so far is when we went to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, where we got a tour through all the native plants and trees and shown how to make fire with fire sticks. Then we walked to the South Australian Museum, where we got a tour through the artefacts room and then to see a painting exhibition.

In the time I have been at Findon, I have noticed that the smaller size of the school helps to create a strong and diverse community, where I have been able to make some amazing friends and look forward to making even more during my time at Findon High School.

Allyra with Steve



## AN INVITATION TO ALL FHS FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS

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How about writing about yourself or perhaps something that you have done or have a passion about for our next Nunga News?

Not only will you become a published writer but your writing will count as a summative task for your English assessment or another learning area that you can negotiate.



# SPOTLIGHT ON LITORIA

## A DIAMOND OPPORTUNITY

In December last year, Litoria now in Year 10 was invited to join the Diamond Softball Academy, after being spotted playing in her district team at West Beach.

The academy, which enables participants to earn 20 SACE Stage 1 and Stage 2 credits, is located at Seaton High School where there is a specialised indoor facility with professional equipment to support athletes to improve their skills.

Athletes in the academy come from a mix of schools including Glenunga International High School, Pulteney Grammar and now Findon High School. Participants work with specialist coaches including best pitcher in the state, West Torrens Steph Trzcinski who works alongside Seaton High School teacher Mel McGie who runs the program.



While the softball program is only in its second year, the academy has had a baseball program for 28-years. Litoria's focus is on skill and game development and will also be supported in the College CV project which will start her on the journey towards playing US College softball if that becomes her goal.

Litoria has also been partnered with a Year 12 First Nations mentor and in the future, they will work together on a research project which is about First Nations student's experiences of the education system.

LITORIA WITH HER COACH



# LITORIA WRITES ABOUT HER LIFE



ANTON WITH LITORIA ON HIS FIRST DAY AT FHS

## WHAT I LIKE ABOUT ADELAIDE

I have been in Adelaide since 2021 and I already like it here because there's a lot of things to do.

First, I am doing Diamond Softball Academy every Wednesday at Seaton High School. I was invited by Mel McGie who plays for West Torrens softball club. She saw me playing at my West Beach club.

I also like going to Findon High School to learn new things. This year I played tennis for the first time and I want to play again. I also learnt to ice skate and to play ice hockey in the Ice Factor program.

Going to the beach with my family is something else I enjoy. I like swimming with my brothers and sisters while sometimes mum cooks barbeque. Usually, we go to Semaphore beach because some of us like to jump off the jetty into the deep water.

Another reason I like living in Adelaide is going to the cinema with my family to watch new movies. The first one we saw was Black Widow and later this week Anton and I are going to watch Sonic 2. My siblings and I love eating popcorn during the movie.

Litoria with Judith

Litoria, Anton and their family moved to Adelaide from Mimili a small community on the APY Lands. APY stands for Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and are the lands in remote North West South Australia with a population of about 2500, consisting of Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra peoples.



BELOW: MIMILI ANANGU COMMUNITY



# FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS LEARN

## ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

On a sunny spring morning in Term 4 last year, a group of our First Nations students and family members were greeted by First Nations cultural instructor Trent Hill, at the entrance to the Indigenous Plant Trail in the Adelaide Botanical Gardens.

Trent showed us how First Nations peoples' expert skills and understanding of Indigenous Australian plants enabled them to live well for thousands of years. Their respect for nature meant that they lived in an environmentally sustainable way.

RIGHT: The River Red Gum tree is often called the supermarket tree because it provides so many foods, for example edible seeds and sap, and honey from wild bees living in the tree. The wood was also used for building canoes and making tools and utensils.



LEFT: Alexis is displaying a seed pod from the Bunya pine. First Nations women climbed the Bunya pine tree to gather the delicious nuts from the top. They wore especially made shoes and gloves to protect their hands and feet from the prickly seed pods.



# WITH FIRST NATIONS TEACHERS

## ADELAIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

*"We need trees more than  
they need us."*

Trent Hill, Indigenous Culture for Kids

RIGHT: Kurna people would have lived in this River Red Gum tree during the autumn months and also when they moved through this area for ceremonial reasons at other times of year.



LEFT: For thousands of generations water stored between the inner bark and the trunk of the Queensland bottle tree was tapped for drinking.



# FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS LEARN

## AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CULTURES GALLERY (AACG) SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

After lunch in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, we walked to the South Australian Museum and were greeted by Eva Wilson, the Aboriginal Education Program Coordinator who showed us around the AACG and the Balgo painting exhibition.



ABOVE: ENTRANCE TO THE AACG



LEFT: TRADITIONAL FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN'S TOYS



# WITH FIRST NATIONS TEACHERS

## AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CULTURES GALLERY SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM



EVA WILSON

Eva, a Mirning woman is the first qualified First Nations teacher to be employed at the South Australian Museum. On our visit, Eva explained the significance of her role as Aboriginal Education Program Coordinator at the museum.

*"We are decolonising. We are taking what Europeans have recorded and stolen and using that to voice our own stories."*

LEFT: EVA LOOKS ON AS THE STUDENTS IDENTIFY THEIR COUNTRY ON THE FIRST NATIONS MAP.



We saw the Wylie Swamp boomerang, below which is the oldest discovered wooden boomerang in Australia. It is around 10 000 years old which tells us that Aboriginal people were scientists 10 000 years ago.





# AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CULTURES GALLERY

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The photos below show two authentic Kurna shields, one old and one new. The shield on the left, made in the 1800's is prominently displayed on the ground floor of the AACG alongside a painting of an important Kurna man called Kadlitpinna. The other photo shows Felicity in the front office receiving Findon High School's Kurna shield from Kurna leader Jack Buckskin who made it for the school last year, using wood he cut from the trunk of what is now our scar tree.



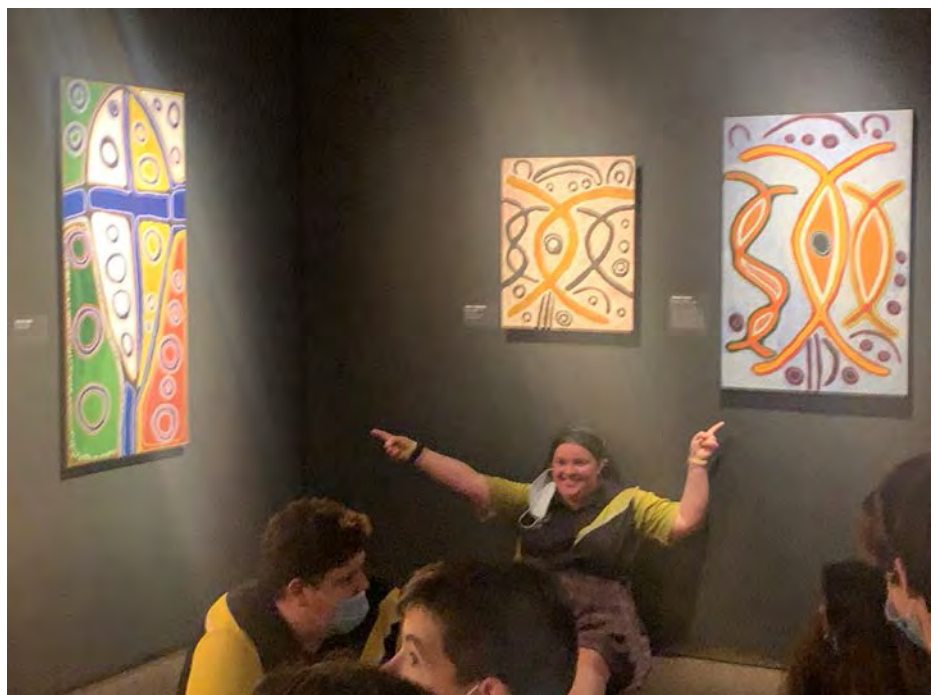
KAURNA SHEILD AND PAINTING OF KUDLITPINNA.



JACK AND FELICITY

## BALGO PAINTING EXHIBITION

Artists from the tiny community of Balgo in Western Australia painted so many beautiful artworks in the early 1980s. Then the paintings disappeared for nearly 40 years. They were found in 2019 and are being exhibited for the first time in the AACG.



ALEXIS IMPRESSED THE CURATOR BECAUSE SHE INTUITIVELY 'KNEW' THAT THE TWO PAINTINGS SHE IS POINTING TO WERE PAINTED BY DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY.

# AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CULTURES GALLERY

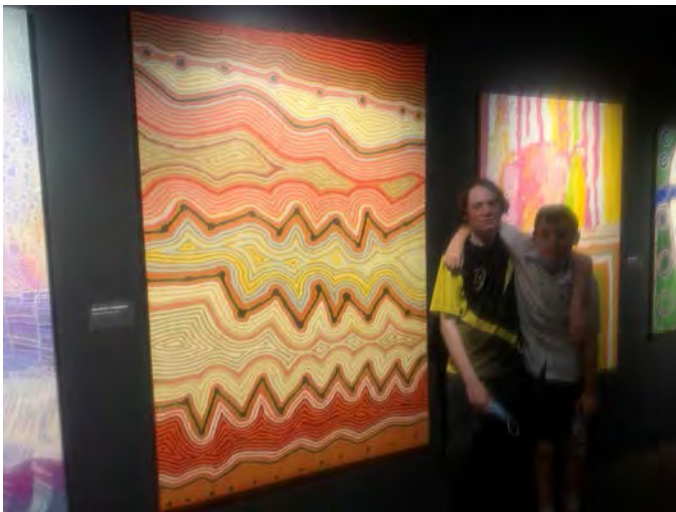
## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

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### BALGO PAINTING EXHIBITION



DELLA



MICHAEL AND KADEN



### WHY NOT VISIT THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM?

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The South Australian Museum on North Terrace Adelaide is free to visit. It is open every day of the year except for Christmas day and Good Friday. There is so much to see including the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery which displays over 3000 artefacts as well as film, sound recordings and photographs.



# LEARNING WITH FIRST NATIONS TEACHERS

## INDIGENOUS CULTURE FOR KIDS

All Year 7 and Year 8 students starting at Findon High School this year, were treated to a presentation by First Nations cultural instructor, Trent Hill. The yarning circle was the perfect location to learn about the many tools that First Nations people handcrafted and used daily in their lives. Trent who made his tools himself runs his own business called Indigenous Culture for Kids. To book him to come to your school or organisation, email [hill\\_trent@optusnet.com.au](mailto:hill_trent@optusnet.com.au) You can also book Trent through the Adelaide Botanic Gardens website for a Indigenous plant trail learning experience in the gardens.



ABOVE: TRENT HILL INDIGENOUS CULTURE FOR KIDS





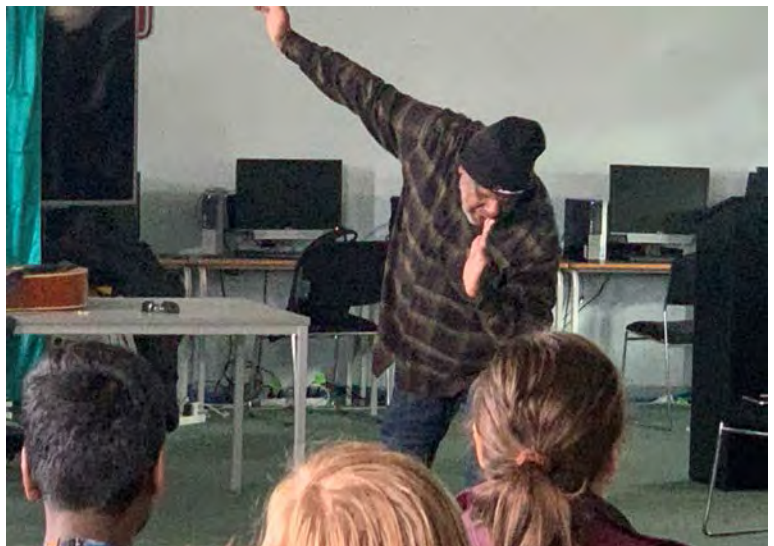
# LEARNING WITH FIRST NATIONS TEACHERS

## UNCLE EDDIE PETERS

In National Reconciliation Week this year, Uncle Eddie Peters visited Findon High School where he engaged all of the Year 7 to Year 10 students in learning some Torres Strait Islander songs and dances. He also spoke about the importance of recognising Torres Strait Islander peoples as First Nations peoples of Australia and about the important work of Torres Strait Islander Eddie Mabo.

## THE MABO DECISION

On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia recognised that a group of Torres Strait Islanders, led by Eddie Mabo, held ownership of Mer (Murray Island). In acknowledging the traditional rights of the Meriam people to their land, the court also held that native title existed for all First Nations people.





# SPECIAL GUEST: STOLEN GENERATION SURVIVOR



## STUDENTS INTERVIEW CAROL OTTO

After reading several Stolen Generations survivor's testimonies in the Bringing Them Home Report and viewing the movie Rabbit Proof Fence, this Year 9 English class had many questions about the inter-generational impact of the Stolen Generations on First Nations Australians.

The class invited Carol Otto, a valued member of our FHS RAP committee and Stolen Generations survivor to an English lesson and interviewed her about her own and her family's experiences. They learnt about the importance of listening to and learning from First Nations peoples' experiences and perspectives and about the resilience of First Nations people.

# SPOTLIGHT ON ANTHONY



In Term 4 last year, Anthony spent a week working fulltime at Derringer's music shop. He gained skills in working in retail in a music shop, got to play some beautiful and also expensive guitars and achieve an A for his Stage 1 Workplace practices subject.

Anthony also ran for Findon High School prefect for 2022, presenting his speech to all of the teachers and Year 11 students. While he was not successful, some teachers said that his speech was the best one out of all applicants. Well done Anthony!





# FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS ACKNOWLEDGE COUNTRY

Thanks to Alexis, Allyra and Felicity who acknowledge Country at school events. A special thanks to Alexis who has most often been our acknowledgement go to person for the last year and a half.



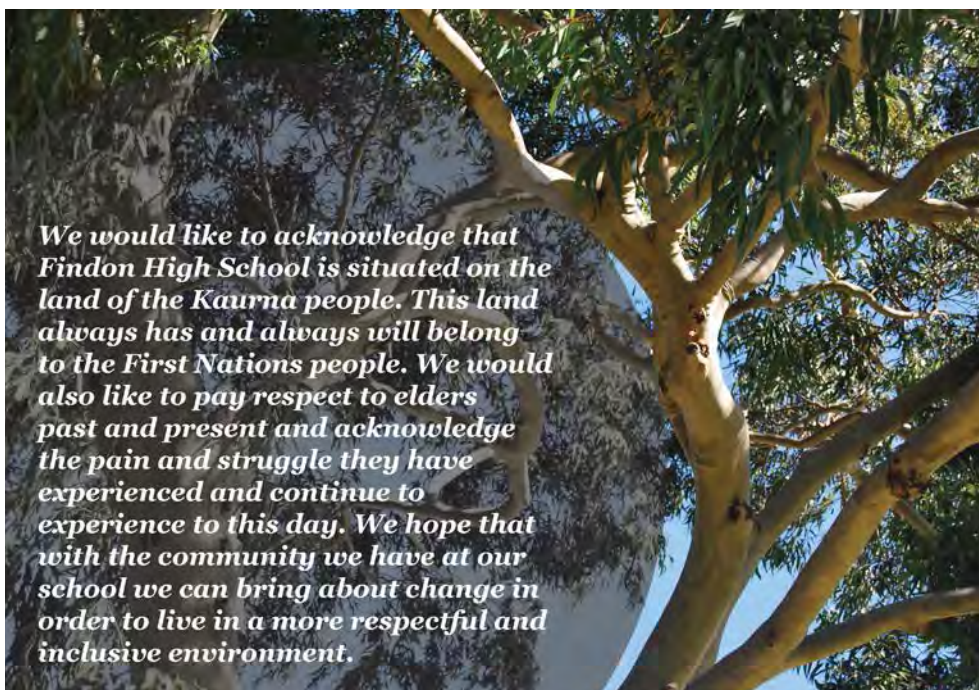
ABOVE: FELICITY ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY AT THE MID YEAR CONCERT AT THE PARKS COMMUNITY CENTRE THEATRE



ABOVE: ALEXIS AT THE TERM 4 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

LEFT: ALLYRA ACKNOWLEDGING COUNTRY AT THE FINDON'S GOT TALENT QUEST

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT VIDEO



In Term 2, one of our teachers, Karla Huffa made an acknowledgement of Country video with a group of First Nations students - Alexis, Braedan, Felicity and Timmy. It's short (48 seconds) sharp and authentically Findon High School because it shows the students in our beautiful yarning circle with our very own Kaurna shield while the student's read our school's very own acknowledgement written by Amira last year when she was a student rep on our RAP committee.



# ICE FACTOR 2022

## NEW PLAYERS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Anton became a Findon Falcon midway through Term 1 and is improving with every week of training. Litoria's sporting talents have transferred to the ice with her scoring within a minute of taking to the ice in her first tournament game in Term 1. Given the way she is training, we can't wait to let her loose in this term's tournament. Stacia has developed into a great captain of our team and leads our defense with a fierce determination. No easy goals when she's around. Stacia has also stepped up and has taken on a mentoring role within Ice Factor where she supports kids from other schools to make the most of their Ice Factor experience. We're very proud of her development. Jamie has started training with the Kaurna Boomerangs and is looking forward to settling in to making a strong contribution for the Boomerangs in their upcoming challenges.



ANTON (ABOVE) AND LITORIA (RIGHT)



CENTRE ROW: LITORIA, STACIA AND JAMIE

## INTERSCHOOL TOURNAMENTS

At the end of each term, the Findon Falcons compete in a tournament against a number of other schools. The Falcons have done incredibly well over the last two tournaments and have been undefeated in their last 12 games.

Go Falcons!

# ICE FACTOR SPECTACULAR

## CATWALK MODELING AT THE ADELAIDE OVAL

Last year on the 29 October, the 8th Ice Factor Spectacular took place in the Magarey Room at the Adelaide Oval. This annual event which raises money for the program, is a great opportunity for Ice Factor athletes to get dressed up in designer clothes and become catwalk models for the night. Stacia modelled for a local brand, New Ground the Label and Showies. Jamie modelled for Ryder Wear an international sportswear company.



THIRD FROM LEFT: JAMIE



STACIA

*"183 students from 18 schools were involved in a fashion show for a crowd of 600 people, including the Governor of South Australia.*

*This was a once in a lifetime event to be a part of for me. I was dressed by Ryder Wear and got to model some of their athletic range. It was a really long day of rehearsals that ended with a great show. Everyone that participated looked amazing on the night."*

Jamie, Ice Factor Findon Falcon and Kaurna Boomerang player





# WHO, WHAT, WHERE

## REC IN THE WEST 2022, TAUONDI



PATRICK WITH ONE OF THE MUCH SOUGHT AFTER  
HELIUM BALLOONS



STEVE INTRODUCES HIS GRAND-BABY KHAH



ABOVE: CAITLIN AND FELICITY  
RHS: ALEXIS AND FELICITY





# WHO, WHAT, WHERE

## REC IN THE WEST 2022, TAUONDI



TIMMY AND KOV



CAITLIN

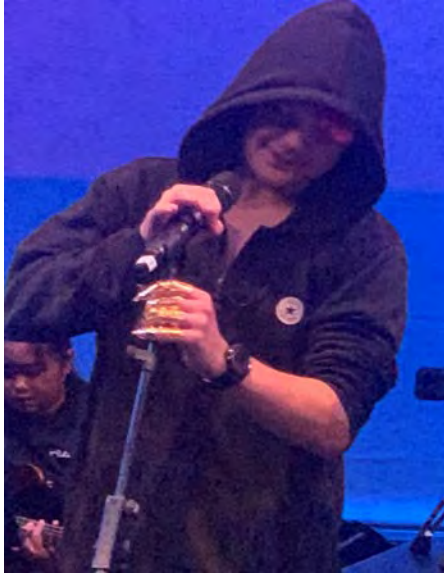


ON THE BUS BACK TO SCHOOL



# WHO, WHAT, WHERE

## MID YEAR CONCERT 2022, PARKS COMMUNITY THEATRE



BRAEDAN



KIRA

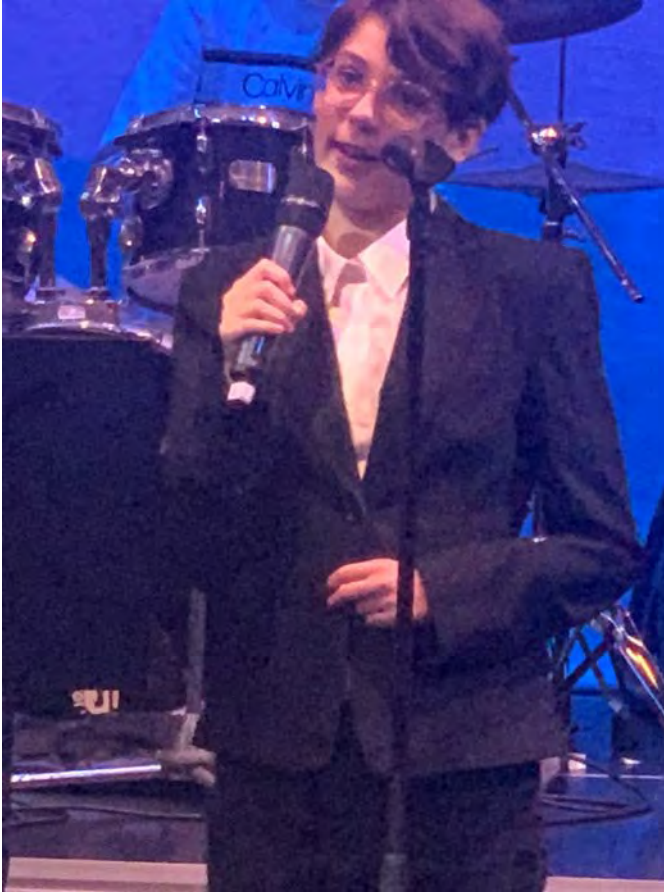


ABOVE: KIRA (LEFT) WITH HER SISTER JASMIN WHO IS IN HER FINAL YEAR OF UNIVERSITY

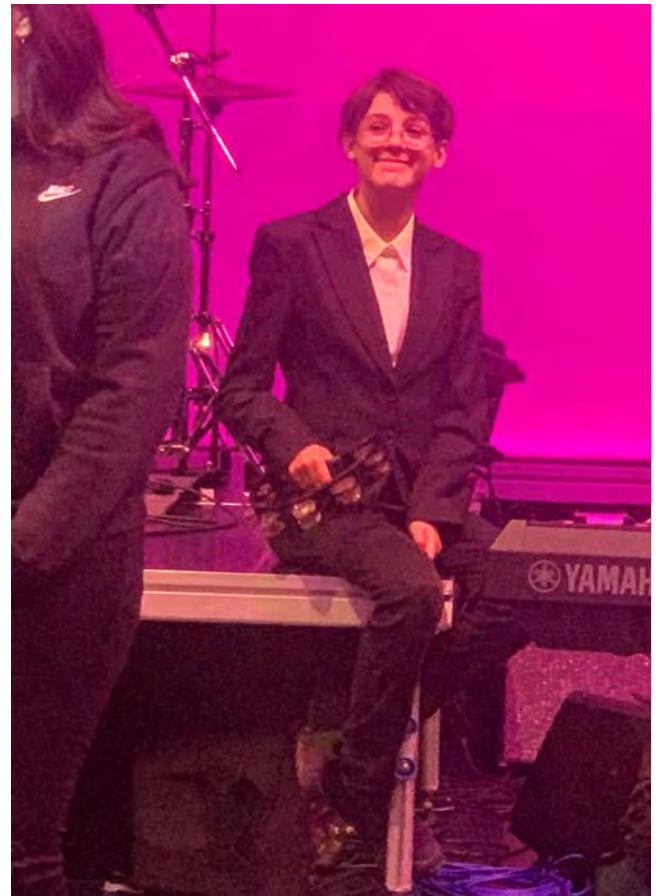
LEFT: KIRA ON THE LEFT SINGING WITH JORDAN AND DIDIER ON THE DRUMS

# WHO, WHAT, WHERE

MID YEAR CONCERT 2022, PARKS  
COMMUNITY THEATRE



FELICITY





# WHO, WHAT, WHERE

## BRAEDAN THE BARISTA

In Semester 2 last year, Braedan achieved level 1 in a nationally accredited barista course with HG Coffee School. This involved him in regularly making and serving a range of professional standard coffees to paying customers (staff and students) before school. This year Braedan will build on his skills with more on the job training at school.





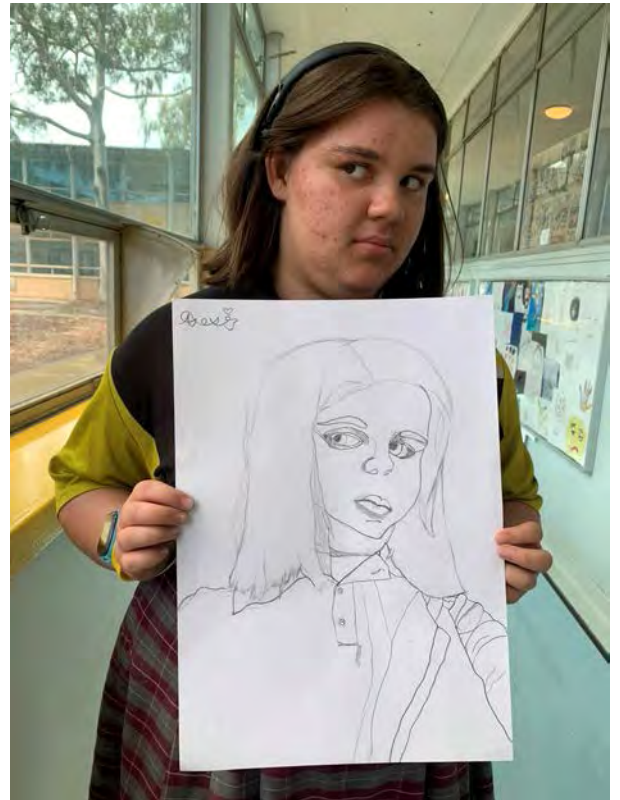
# WHO, WHAT, WHERE



WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS ROSIE AND TYSON FROM MIMILI



MEOW MEOW ATTENDS FIRST NATION  
HOMEWORK CLUB CELEBRATION



ALEXIS POSES WITH SELF PORTRAIT



FELICITY AND CARIS PERFORM A DUET AT FINDON'S GOT TALENT



# PRAISE FOR FHS NUNGA NEWS, ISSUE 1

*This is wonderful! Thank you so much for sharing. I loved reading the newsletter and especially noticed the supportive, learning-centred focus and strong evidence of student voice. Awesome photos! I was actually at the Space Forum when the Premier announced that Findon HS students!*

Mandi Dimitriadis, Director of Learning, Makers Empire

*Thank you for sharing FHS Nunga News. What a fabulous reflection of the rich cultural immersion at FHS. I love Jack Buckskin carving the shield in the scar tree!! Some new learning for me a 'Scar tree'. .... If it is okay with you can I share Nunga news with the rest of the One Plan team? They would really appreciate seeing some quality culturally aware and inclusive practice.*

Louise Barker, Senior Leader, One Plans

*This is fantastic! And what a way to promote Anangu culture with the satellite name Please keep the newsletters coming, I'll print them out and distribute around the school.*

Kev Kelly, Principal, Oak Valley Anangu School

*The Nunga News is amazing! I am so proud to send my kids to a school that promotes Aboriginal voice, perspectives and inclusivity.*

Becc Clark, First Nations parent of Findon High School students

## THANK YOU



Thanks to Carol Otto, FHS RAP committee member who made time for us on top of her busy role as Henley High School ASETO to be interviewed by a FHS Year 9 English class about her and her families' experiences as Stolen Generation survivors.



Thanks to Julie Keast for continuing to support the First Nations students in Ice Factor program at the Ice Arena each week and for taking such great photos at Ice Factor events.

