

# NAIDOC Week celebrations in the Senior School

*Prefects Keira Nguyen and Isabella Wong (Year 12) helped oversee the Senior School's celebration of NAIDOC Week last term. Below is their report on a wonderful week of celebration and remembrance.*

The theme of NAIDOC Week this year is 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision, Legacy'. It is a celebration of not only the achievements of the past but also of the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.

All students were given special ribbons designed by April Napangardi Campbell, an artist elder from Ti Tree in the Northern Territory, who also created a special artwork for Meriden, pictured on the right. April's storytelling in the painting helps us understand the symbolism used in her work, as well as the knowledge that is shared on Country.

The artwork is featured in the new Design and Creative Arts (DaCA) building, so be sure to drop by and take a look.

During the week, there was a range of activities run by various clubs and groups.

There was an Indigenous cooking workshop which paired traditional flavour profiles with popcorn, as well as tea and kangaroo meat.

The Green Team ran an Indigenous sign language workshop. During Pastoral Time, girls joined yarning circles and learned how to weave bracelets.

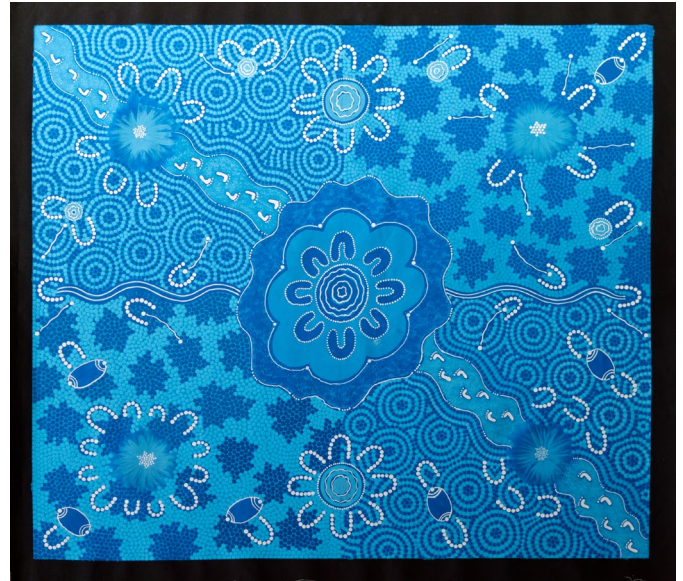
The sgraffito workshop saw girls make a design with clay, based on the Ti Tree landscape and from our own backyard in Sydney.

Throughout the week, there were signs around the school to encourage students to read about and learn some of the First Nations words and phrases. There was also a ceramic showcase celebrating cultural exchange in the DaCA building.

The Hudson Library and Research Centre displayed the First Nations Hall of Fame, to celebrate the rich contributions made by Indigenous Australians in various fields.

Beyond NAIDOC Week, we also feel deeply privileged to be part of the Yadha Muru Foundation, working in partnership with Ti Tree School and Neutral Junction School in the Northern Territory. Together, we are learning from and with one another in a spirit of mutual respect and cultural exchange.

At present, a group of Year 11 students are participating in an immersion camp, offering them the unique opportunity to connect with Country and deepen their cultural understanding.



This painting is about 'both ways knowledge'; teaching the ways of living in both ways education. We teach in the classroom and out on Country. We build trust with each other and get to know the students and staff well. We guide our students to share their stories by sitting around the campfire. Elders come to the groups to share their knowledge on the coolamon, while others are walking around with their message sticks passing knowledge to other groups.



The sgraffito workshop