



# STARS – Tumut Newsletter

Term 1 – 2024

## T.H.S Welcomes STARS

STARS began at Tumut High School at the start of Term 4, 2023. Officially STARS was in full flight Term 1 2024. THS has provided a beautiful space for our girls to call their own STARS room, on gorgeous Wiradjuri country.

As one of the first STARS Foundation programs to be established in New South Wales, we are proud to have the opportunity to build relationships with our First Nations girls from Years 7 to 12 and we look forward to watching them succeed.

Program Coordinator Trish Whitburn and Mentor Nioka Marlowe are so excited to guide our First Nations young women at THS.

The girls have been enthusiastic to engage in the program and numbers are growing rapidly. Trish and Nioka have enjoyed getting to know the girls in these early stages.

A big thank you to Principal Brad Taylor, all THS staff and CLONTARF staff who have been exceptionally supportive of the STARS program as we navigate our way through this new territory.



## Official Launch – STARS Tumut

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Snowy Hydro 2.0, Tumut High School and STARS Foundation celebrated the official launch of STARS Foundation program at Tumut High School on Wiradjuri Country.

Snowy Hydro are the major sponsor of the local STARS program and they were thrilled to invite the community together to celebrate STARS Foundation program commencing at Tumut High School. It was a wonderful gathering of students, staff, parents, partners, and supporters of STARS program. Snowy Hydro's Sarah Norris spoke about the wonderful opportunities the program will offer our First Nations girls with partnership and support offered from Snowy Hydro.

STARS CEO Andrea Goddard spoke of how proud she is to see STARS expanding into New South Wales. Andrea said "We know we have an incredible group of young ladies here, who are smart, resilient, determined and have really high aspirations for themselves. Our role is to have a terrific team to wrap support around them and make sure that they can achieve their goals, their dreams and genuinely reach for the stars."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmrcE8cSipw>

To see the video of the Official Launch please click the link above.

Congratulations to our Mentor Nioka on the safe arrival of her beautiful son. While Nioka is on Maternity leave during Term 1 and 2, we are lucky to have Lakota Morris covering in the Mentor role.

Thank you, Lakota.



## Year 8 Excursion



Our first excursion for 2024 was to Narrandera where our Year 8 STARS were joined by Albury Year 8 STARS.

A group of 6 students were very excited to start the first leg from Tumut to Wagga where we stopped to enjoy Ten Pin Bowling. From Wagga we travelled to Junee where we met Albury STARS to make giant freckles and enjoy lunch together.

From Junee we travelled to Narrandera to set up swags and camp at Lake Talbot Caravan Park. After a bit of a learning curve with setting up swags, the girls headed to the Lake Albert Water Park to enjoy an afternoon of swimming and racing down the water slides. After a big day, the girls were ready for dinner and scary stories.

The next morning everyone was up early to pack up the camp and travel to Sandhills where the girls would participate in a cultural tour by Uncle Michael Lyons.

This was a great opportunity for the girls to learn more about Wiradjuri culture and practices from a respected knowledge holder and community Elder.

Our STARS had the opportunity to create their own Clap Sticks or Coolamons. The tour was wrapped up with the opportunity to have Indigenous inspired lunch of Witchitty Grub pizza, Emu Spring Rolls, Kangaroo tail, Bush Salt chips and Wattle seed and Quandong Jam ice cream and cheesecake.



## Dance Workshop - Wagga

**STARS attended dance workshop presented by Bangarra Dance Theatre.**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March a small group of our STARS girls travelled to Wagga Wagga High School to participate in Aboriginal dance workshop directed by Bangarra Dance Theatre instructors.

Our young women felt privileged to be part of the event and were especially thrilled to be formally trained and guided by the incredible, world-renowned dancers of Bangarra Dance Theatre. They had a chance to learn a range of dance both traditional and contemporary dances. Our girls enjoyed the whole day of dancing and found the experience both fun and exhausting.

### CONNECTING WITH CULTURE

**Term 1 has presented our STARS with many opportunities to engage with culture and community.**

On February 28<sup>th</sup> our STARS attended an important local event honouring Aboriginal leader and Tumut historical figure Hannibal Hamilton. Our STARS attending Hannibal Hamilton Tree Planting. Hamilton was an Aboriginal King of the Tumut tribe who was an important mediator who helped resolve intercultural conflicts between Aboriginal people and Europeans. The original tree was planted at Hannibal's grave 159 years ago. A new tree was planted as the old Elm tree had reached the end of its natural life expectancy.





## Our Supporters

Our program would not be moving forward without the support of our STARS partners. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those partners and sponsors who are creating opportunities for our STARS students.

Tumut High School  
Snowy Hydro 2.0  
Regional NSW  
BCF  
Woolworths  
Tumut Community, Family & Friends



## Everyday Achievements

Everyday our STARS display our values of Respect, Honesty, Commitment and Pride.

We are proud to say that 41 First Nations young women have registered with the STARS program this term. We look forward to supporting them throughout the school year to improve attendance, behaviour and build strong, resilient, respectful young ladies.

Each day our STARS girls are working towards earning their STARS shirts. The shirt is an incentive for the girls to actively build on the STARS values and proudly show they are STARS who shine bright.



Photo Left: STARS would like to take this opportunity to wish Aunty Winnie Bulger (Elder in Residence) the best in her retirement. We thank you for all the support you have given Indigenous students at Tumut High School for the past 24 years. You will be missed.

## Tumut Rock-Stars Shine!



During recent Official Launch our STARS were asked to participate in media interviews with Snowy Hydro. Although out of their comfort zone, being the true STARS they are, they stepped up and participated.

Each STARS student was asked what STARS meant to the each of them. It was a proud moment to see how willing each student was to take part and openly discuss STARS while being interviewed by a professional media team. Each of them conducted themselves so confidently and professionally.

**Our Tumut Rock STARS were:** Jaydah Rose, Dakota, Hayley, Marli, Sierra, Jacee, Jazmine and Adeena, It was wonderful to see how proud these deadly young women were once they had completed their interviews.

