



STARS – Tumut Newsletter

Settling into Tumut High School

STARS Foundation is very grateful for the beautiful space provided by Tumut High School which was allocated for our girls to call their own on gorgeous Wiradjuri country.

Program Coordinator Trish Whitburn would like to acknowledge the support and guidance provided by Tumut High School staff as we learn more about our amazing STARS students.

The girls have enthusiastically engaged in the many activities and information sessions we have held over Term 2.

This term has been very busy and full of lots of new and exciting opportunities for our STARS students.

A big thank you to Tumut High School 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.



Partnership Video – STARS & Snowy Hydro 2.0



On Tuesday 12th 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 official partner of STARS Foundation and major supporter of STARS program at Tumut High School came together to celebrate local program. It was a wonderful gathering of students, staff, parents, partners, and supporters of STARS program.

During the official launch in Term 1, Snowy Hydro engaged some of our STARS in the recording of a video that outlined the STARS program and the importance of the partnership with Snowy Hydro. Many of our STARS feature in this incredible video. To see the video of the partnership between STARS and Snowy hydro 2.0 please click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6muVqPngmYY&t=10s>



Mandaang guwu (thankyou) Lakota

STARS staff, students, parents and carers would like to acknowledge the incredible support, care and love shown by Mentor Lakota Morris.

Lakota stepped into the Mentor role while Nioka was on maternity leave. Lakota put her hand up to support our STARS for Semester 1.

This was a big ask as the program was new to Tumut High school and the role was just beginning to take shape. Lakota took a brave step to come and join STARS in a short-term capacity and we are very grateful that she did.

From each and every one of us at STARS we say Mandaang guwu (Thank you in Wiradjuri language) Lakota Morris for being there for our STARS young women.

Without your willingness to jump in and support the program, this Semester would have looked very different.

We are very proud of the fact you took on the duties of running the STARS bus, pick up and drop off. Your chats and food were very popular with the girls throughout the day, and they will miss that greatly.

STARS Tumut will never forget what you have done to support us during the early stages of the program. We wish you all success in whatever comes next for you.

Photo left: Mentor Lakota Morris and Coordinator Trish Whitburn.

We welcome back Mentor Nioka Marlowe start of Term 3.

Below: STARS exploring the Tunnel at Lobbs Hole, Snowy Hydro 2.0 Project on 6th May 2024.





Ecology Visit & Cultural Burn

STARS attended Tree planting at Ecology Reserve presented by Murrumbidgee Landcare

On Thursday 2nd May 2024 a small group of our Year 7 and 8 STARS travelled to Ecology Reserve to participate in Tree Planting workshop directed by Murrumbidgee Landcare staff. Our young women learnt about the benefit of planting native trees and shrubs and how it helps prevent bush fires. The ecology reserve is an important space for the Tumut Aboriginal community with a yarning circle and newly planted bush tucker on hand for the future. Our STARS girls enjoyed the whole day of dancing and found the experience both fun and exhausting.

Pictured above: Zoe busy planting trees and scrubs.

Pictured below: Our STARS paying close attention to the burning process.

On Friday 3rd May a small group of Year 9,10 and 11 STARS attended Tumut Wetlands to participate in important local event, a cultural burn conducted and lead by Wirajduri Cultural Burn team. Our girls learnt about traditional burning for vegetation control and regrowth.



CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

Term 2 has presented our STARS with many opportunities to engage with culture and community.

Before our term began a small group of STARS girls, family and community members volunteered to participated in Tumut Falling Leaf festival parade on Saturday 27th April. We decorated our STARS bus and handed out STARS information and little bags of treats to the huge crowd present on the day. The girls and family members did STARS proud. Thank you to everyone who assisted on the day.



Above: Adeena and community member Rebecca displaying our STARS banner during the Festival.

Below: Our bus fully decorated for the day.



Rewards – Year 7 Pizza Night

Each term we celebrate the STARS year group with the highest attendance.

For Term 1 the winner was our youngest ladies, our year 7 STARS.

As a reward our Year 7 girls enjoyed a Pizza and Movie Night in STARS room, in second week of Term 2.

Who will be Term 2 winning Year?

100% Attendance

Congratulations to our amazing Year 7 student Dakota who has maintained a 100% attendance record for Term 1 and 2.

Dakota not only has an incredible attendance record she consistently displays the STARS values of Respect, Honesty, Commitment and Pride.

Keep up the good work Dakota.



Dubbo – NSW STARS Carnival

Touch Footy Carnival and Zoo Visit at Dubbo NSW.

A small group of our Tumut STARS travelled to Dubbo to participate in the inaugural NSW STARS carnival with participants from South Grafton, Inverell, Albury and Tumut programs.

The NSW programs came together to build relationships and have fun together playing touch football. Dubbo provided a beautiful sunny day for the day of competition which seen Inverell STARS win convincingly, completing the day undefeated. All the girls across the four programs had an amazing day and enjoyed spending time together. Special mention to Tumut STARS Renae Hodge who took out our Best Player and Zahli Scobie who was awarded the shining STAR award.

The following day we went to Dubbo Zoo where our day began with cultural session about the significant sites and native animals that are cared for by the Zoo and the importance of understanding Moiety (kinship) connections in Aboriginal people.

Many of the girls and staff chose to bike around the Zoo but first stop was a chance to feed the Giraffes which everyone really enjoyed. After a quick morning tea break everyone had 2 hours to explore the Zoo and spend time taking lots of photos of the various animals on display.

Photo below: Hayley, Jarmara and Bimi learning about the importance of Possum skins during Cultural session at Dubbo Zoo.



INCENTIVE EXCURSION – State of Origin 2 Melbourne

Each term we celebrate the STARS group of students who consistently display the STARS values of Respect, Honesty, Commitment, Pride and who have good school attendance. This term we were fortunate to offer our STARS girls the chance to go to Melbourne to watch the second State of Origin, a reward for regularly do the right thing.

The fortunate 10 students and 2 staff could not contain their excitement for the excursion and the chance to cheer on their team. With a good mix of Blues and Maroons supporters; it was going to be a heated trip. Everyone was encouraged to wear their team colours.

On Wednesday 26th June we travelled to Albury to board the train to travel to Melbourne CBD. When we arrived in Melbourne CBD, we quickly boarded a tram and then a short walk to our Motel, where we met up with Albury STARS program students and staff. A quick change into our supporters' gear and we were off again. All students and staff walked to Federation Square where we met up with Mildura STARS program students and staff. We were all very eager and excited to walk to MCG with many stops along the way for quick head count.

After we arrived at MCG, Year 7 student Zahli spotted the TV crew and decided we needed to be on TV. Zahli convinced the TV crew to take footage of all our STARS and surprise, surprise we made it on TV. After that little bit of fun, we made our way into the incredible Melbourne Cricket Ground and took our seats. The banter was well and truly on between Blues and Maroons supporters and that was just among our STARS girls. Our girls utterly enjoyed the whole experience from the fireworks, pre-game entertainment, Welcome to Country and if you're a Blues fan, the game result and 90 000 people filled stadium. Well done to our STARS Jacee-May, Jaydah, Jazmine, Sophia, Zoey, Jarmara, Hayley, Keilani and Zahli who earned their way to State of Origin for always displaying the STARS values. Keep up the great work Tumut STARS.



Above – Zoe, Sophia & Trish showing their support for Qld & Tumut STARS Blues Supporters.

Below – Jarmara and Jacee-May dressed for success. Lani, Zahli and Jacee-May very happy Blues supporters.



Staying Active: Yoga and Boxing



During Term 2 our STARS had the opportunity to participate in boxing and Yoga has part of our pillar of Healthy Lifestyles. Yoga was contacted over a 3-week period lead by Karen Clarke. All the girls who participated in Yoga were surprised at how much they enjoyed it. Every Friday we took a group of STARS to Boxing delivered by Champ Fitness instructor David Ah Lam. David lead the girls in various activities that was fun and engaging. The girls learnt the basics of Boxing movements and skills.

LEFT: Bimi and Rennae showing us their skills.

Gaining a Qualification – Boat Licence



During Week 8 of this term 5 of our STARS had the incredible opportunity to gain their Boat License. Our young women spent 2 days on Blowering Dam and a third day sitting their exam. All girls had an amazing time, and they thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and could not contain their excitement at having the chance to lead the Police vehicles. A big thank you to Maritime NSW and NSW Police staff for their time, equipment, and guidance during the qualification. Congratulations Jaydah, Sierra, Jacee-May, Jarmara and Alarna.

Snowy Hydro 2.0 Employment Tour



Nine STARS and 2 staff travelled to Snowy Hydro Project at Lobes Hole on Monday 6th May. This opportunity was organised by STARS partner Snowy Hydro 2.0 and was an incredible opportunity to see the project up close. STARS were outfitted in appropriate PPE gear and provided a safety discussion before the day began. STARS visited the site accommodation, shop, meals area, the meeting areas and the main project area including the tunnel leading into the main drilling area. We were privileged to hear from employees especially local Indigenous women who live and work at Snowy 2.0. We heard about the incredible employment opportunities available to First Nations people.