

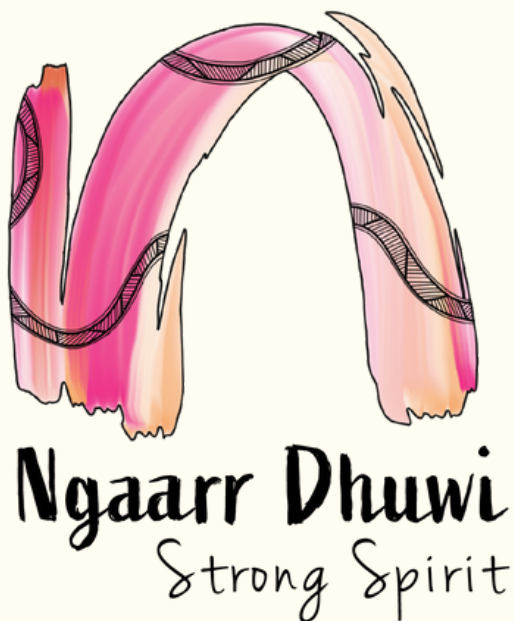
TERM 2 & 3 2023

# NGAARR DHUWI SPIRIT

Term 2 & 3 Newsletter



Kaayi, we are proud and  
honoured to connect,  
laugh and learn on  
Awabakal and Worimi  
Country.



We proudly share with you  
our very first Ngaarr Dhuwi  
Spirit highlighting our  
many good news stories.

TERM 2 & 3 2023

# NGAARR DHUWI SPIRIT

It's been deadly to see our Ngaarr Dhuwi Girls Academy mentors across our 6 sites forming genuine relationships with our young women in the academy and wider community.

We have 12 strong diverse Aboriginal mentors with kin connections across different Country who bring love, passion, humility and spirit to their roles as Ngaarr Dhuwi mentors.

At the heart of Ngaarr Dhuwi is the nurturing of our young women's spirit, reengaging them with identity and advocating for self-determination.



Already we are seeing an increased sense of belonging, reengagement with schooling, increased student attendance and positive connections with community.

Through the daily support and various opportunities provided by our mentors, participants connect with many women and other young ones to build trusting relationships to building their community of support.

Always loving to learn, our mentors have engaged in learning on Country, Koori Games Day with Uncle Gerald from NSW Office of Sport alongside a session with NSW DoE Aboriginal Outcomes and Partnership Directorate on academic school systems.

Gawuyu  
Cherie Collins  
Ngaarr Dhuwi Program Manager



# GLENDALE TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL



At Glendale mentors Brandii and Ashanti have been working closely with AEO Aunty Nat to create meaningful wellbeing opportunities.

Focusing on re-engagement, connection and high expectations our Ngaarr Dhuwi girls' overall school and in-class attendance has increased alongside community connection.

Together participants have been coming together to create a stunning art piece that will be placed onto shirts reflecting the Ngaarr Dhuwi spirit at Glendale High School.



We are excited for our new room to be installed Term 4 thanks to successful advocating by our President Leigh Ridgeway. This is an important moment for the Glendale Aboriginal community, we cannot wait to have a community hub for our people.

Our Ngaarr Dhuwi girls and brothers all gathered at the yarning circle, for a Kinship yarn with the CEO of Awabakal LALC Aunty Kumarah Kelly, alongside Aunty Nat, Ashanti, Brandii and Callan. The outcome of the session was to give the students a better understanding of how our Aboriginal Kinship system works. Students were asked at the start of the session to explain what family they have at the school. The children remained really focused during the session and found it very interesting to learn that their cousin is their sister/brother in cultural ways.

The children then walked to the quad to participate in the "Privilege Walk". In this exercise, the children were asked a range of questions about life outside of school. All children were given the option to only answer questions they were comfortable with answering.

This exercise was to raise awareness of various forms of privilege and gave the children some understanding to what their Aboriginal brothers and sisters everyday lives are like.

'Parents and students love having big sisters at the school and more mob to help them'





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# WALLSEND CAMPUS

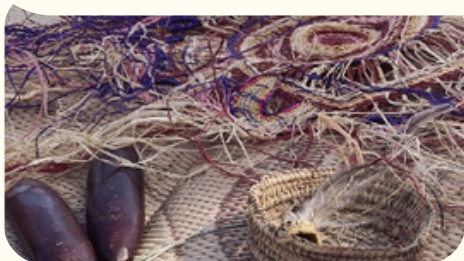
## CALLAGHAN COLLEGE

At Wallsend Campus, mentors have been working closely with the Aboriginal Education Team and school community to create opportunities for our Ngaarr Dhuwi Girls.

In term 3 we have had regular workshops on campus learning weaving, games, language, art and connection.

We have also had the privilege to join in on the excursions with our girls that are in the school Aboriginal dance group.

We participated in an excursion to Yamuloong cultural centre alongside Newcastle High School, had Aunty Sheridan Noble visit for weaving and wellbeing along with Aunty Kristy Faulkner.



Offering in-class support and academic tutoring has seen student attendance increase as families are feeling more comfortable with mentors advocating for their children.



We are looking forward Term 4 with visits to Tribal Warrior and hosting Ngaarr Dhuwi Touch Footy Gala Day and Ceremony.

The girls often comment on how much they love having a sense of belonging in the school now. We have had great feedback from members of the community, cheering us on hoping to have the program in all schools one day.





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# WARATAH CAMPUS CALLAGHAN COLLEGE

Waratah Ngaarr Dhuwi mentors Mel and Kylee have been busy offering holistic support in class, out of class, transport to and from school, providing food, wellbeing and selfcare.

This support has seen an improvement in daily attendance and families trust in mentors to attend return from suspension meetings, alternate pathway meetings, out of home care meetings with DCJ caseworker and meetings with other teachers to support girls.

Mentors have seen girls increased capacity of self-respect expose participants to new and alternate perspectives to move forward with choices in a positive manner.



Girls are using the Ngaarr Dhuwi space to come and debrief, ask questions, time out of their day to find a sense of calmness, and follow up with any academic or social needs.

After school activities are a big hit at Waratah as girls have expressed their interest and enjoyment of the activities by actively voicing what they liked about the session, it's deadly to see so many different girls show up each time!

Some of our girls are off to a cultural holiday camp this break and we are all excited to see what Term 4 will bring.



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# SWANSEA HIGH SCHOOL

Mentors Emma and Aunty Maree have been occupied forming meaningful relationships and creating opportunities for our Ngaarr Dhuwi girls at Swansea High School. Focusing on re-engagement, connections and healing our girls.

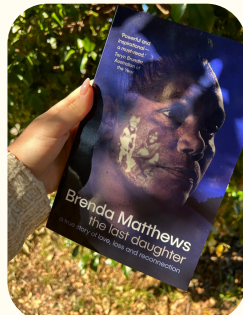


Our Ngaarr Dhuwi girls loved taking part in a healing art session run by Aunty Diane and Bonny from a local women's art group. Yarning about the connection to nature from when we are born into the world till when we leave. Through painting leaves, we can connect and heal with ourselves and nature.

They were also privileged to share a beautiful afternoon with Aunty Sheridan Noble, where she shared her knowledge and helped the girls reconnect and heal with their identity through yarning and weaving. The girls discovered how much they had in common with each other, further creating strong bonds and relationships.

Mentors took our girls to visit Newcastle Museum to see the 'First' exhibition. From there they took a tour of significant cultural sites in Newcastle.

The girls also spent some time up on Swansea headlands learning strategies to heal their minds and yarning with Aunty Carol about the local dreaming stories connected to their area.



Mentors have watched the girls grow, heal and learn deeply through laughter, tears, sharing and connections. We are looking forward to what term 4 brings for our Swansea mob.



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# WEST WALLSEND HIGH SCHOOL

Our Ngaarr Dhuwi girls at Westy have been working alongside our mentor Taylah to form genuine relationships. Out of the 40 participants, 50% of them have increased their attendance between 5 to 20 percent since joining Ngaarr Dhuwi.

A lot of the girls have commented that when they leave school, they want to do the job of a Ngaarr Dhuwi mentor like Tay and help other Aboriginal students.



Staff have reflected that having Ngaarr Dhuwi in the school has made a positive impact on the girls and their learning.

Families have also said that with our mentor Taylah being there it has made it easier to get their children to school.



We are so excited with the opening of the beautiful Ngaarr Dhuwi cottage that sits in the heart of the school. The girls are focusing on respect and responsibility, by using the cottage as an example. The girls are treating the cottage as their own and keeping it a clean and positive space for all the other students.

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# NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL



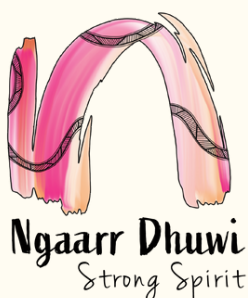
Mentors Bianca and Majayda have been busy connecting with participants and creating individual aspiration plans to highlight personalised support.



Newcastle High School and Wallsend Campus Ngaarr Dhuwi girls came together and met at Yamuloong with Aunty Kristy Faulkner to immerse in culture.

The girls started the day by getting to know each other and yarning up and playing games. They sat and yarned about confidence and being strong women. We also participated in weaving and art and ended the day with some self-reflecting.

Ngaarr Dhuwi girls have also been on an excursion to Newcastle Museum and gathered to yarn with Byron from Headspace about possible wellbeing activities in Term 4





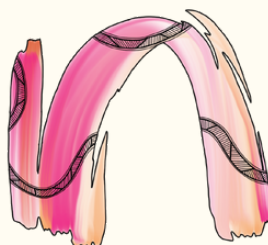
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# FOOTSTEPS FORWARD...



## TERM 4 OPPORTUNITIES

Ngaarr Dhuwi Touch Footy Gala Day  
Brolga Dance Academy  
Tribal Warrior  
Ngaarr Dhuwi welcomes Pirru  
Thangkurray on Country  
Waves to Wellness  
Ngaarr Dhuwi Community Welcome  
Transition Days  
NRL Rugby League Clinics  
AMS Health Checks  
Dental Checks



**Ngaarr Dhuwi**  
Strong Spirit



Special thanks to our very talented artist Wallula Bethell for her stunning Ngaarr Dhuwi designs, to Emma Humphries Swansea High mentor for designing Ngaarr Dhuwi Spirit, to all our mentors and our young women for sharing their strength and story.

## Socials

 @NSW AECG Inc

## Contact

Ngaarr Dhuwi (Strong Spirit)  
37 Cavendish Street,  
Stanmore NSW 2048  
(02) 9550 5666  
info@aecg.nsw.edu.au  
www.aecg.nsw.edu.au

