



The Scoop

The news that matters from the
Smith Street Unit

www.smithst-s.schools.nsw.edu.au

Volume 3 Issue 9 December 2016



From the desk of Chahla

2017 will bring major changes to the Smith Street Unit. I am leaving the unit after spending four great years teaching students and learning from them. I loved being part of the team at SSU and met some exceptional teachers, staff, parents and students. Loretta is also leaving and going to teach in a primary setting and Ben accepted a teaching position at Wollongong University.

On behalf of all staff, I take this opportunity to wish the SSU families and carers, Wollongong High staff, and all the external agencies involved with SSU a safe and happy Christmas and all the best for 2017!

I would like to thank all the agencies that worked closely with the unit to maximise student engagement and facilitate the learning. I also would like to thank Merryl Bennett (Transition Support Teacher), Jeanine Dunkley (Head Teacher Karabar), and Leanne Mckay (Norta Norta Tutor and Mentor) for being active advocates for our students and always ensuring our students have access to the curriculum and additional programs. The dedication, relentless effort and ongoing support of the SSU team are to be commended and I will greatly miss all staff. Finally, I would like to thank Nick, our casual teacher who worked at the unit in the past 3 weeks and quickly built a good rapport with the students and the teachers. ***For all the departing teachers, may 2017 be a year of success and happiness.***

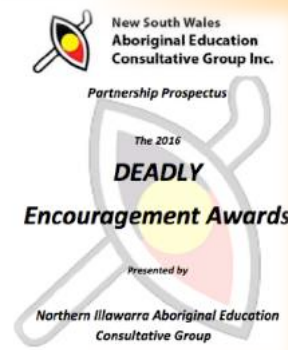


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Australia Day	Thursday 26 January 2017	<i>Happy Australia Day</i>
First day of term for teachers	Friday 27 January 2017	<i>Looking forward to another great year</i>
First day of term for students	Monday 30 January 2017	<i>Welcome to the Smith Street Unit!</i>



The **“DEADLY Encouragement Awards** recognise the Aboriginal students who over the past year, have demonstrated a commitment to improve, to show consistency of effort, or display a positive attitude towards learning.

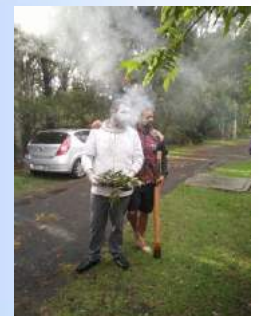
The aim is for the students to feel valued to encourage a stronger sense of identity, and in future, encourage them to be strong effective leaders and role models to younger children in our community. Congratulations to Bailey Murray and Nicholas Scott for receiving the awards. *They make the unit and themselves proud!!!*

The students at the Smith Street Unit enjoyed the scavenger hunt at the **Botanic Gardens** on Wednesday 7th of December. We had 3 teams competing. Each team had to match 15 photos of plants to the real plants located in different sections of the park. Thanks to the excellent observation skills of Nick, Joshua and Kaylan, our team was the fastest at completing the task. *I am so lucky; I was on the winning team!* By Chahla



Smoking Ceremony at WHSPA

Chahla, Cyndy, Petrina and Ziik attended Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts on Wednesday 7 December at 6.30am to celebrate the centenary of the school and the opening of the new outdoor learning area. The smoking ceremony is an ancient Aboriginal practice. The ceremony is a cleansing ritual to acknowledge Aboriginal ancestors, pay respect to country and wards off bad spirits. It was an amazing spiritual experience!



Mt Keira Excursion



The students of the Smith Street Unit participated in an excursion to the **Mt Keira Lookout** on Monday the 12th of December. The excursion supplemented the work being done in the classroom on Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories. At the lookout, the students learnt about the Aboriginal Dreamtime story of the creation of Mount Keira and the five Islands to enhance and foster their understanding of Aboriginal Dreamtime and Art expression through sculptures.



Futureworld Excursion

The Smith Street Unit's students participated in an excursion to Futureworld on Wednesday the 14th of December to enhance and foster their understanding of the following topics: Energy conservation, Solar Energy, Wind energy, Wave energy and Greenhouse and climate change. The highlight of the excursion was the 3D printer and the whistles that it printed!

Celebrating Students' Achievements

1 year join membership \$50
Members pay \$2 a day
Non members pay \$4 a day

Youth GYM

YOUTH GYM is a council-run project set up to promote fitness among young people.

Youth Gym facilities

- Swimming
- Squash
- Indoor cricket
- Leisure rooms
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Fully equipped GYM
- Cafe with healthy food and drinks
- FULLY TRAINED STAFF

Youth Gym opening hours

Every day during school term
from 3:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Every Saturday and Sunday
from 8:30 am to 9:30 pm

All school holidays from
7:30 am to 10:00 pm

Bailey Stopher
PDHPE: Healthy Lifestyles Unit
Task: How fit am I?



NICHOLAS SCOTT

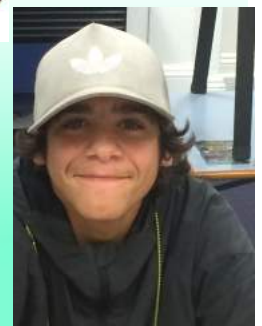
THIS IS ME

- I like spending time with my friends and riding all types of bikes. ✓
- My friends need to be honest and trustworthy. My friends need to be active. ✓
- I like footy and swimming. ✓
- My favourite subjects are maths and science. I love doing the experiments in science. ✓
- My mum and dad and my support people. ✓
- I am good at being a good friend to my true mates. ✓
- I could improve my bike skills as I want to be a famous rider. ✓
- My goals this year is to try not to get in trouble so much ✓
- Please remember me as being the boy with a beautiful smile. ✓

Nicholas Scott
PDHPE: Sense of Self
Task: All about me



We would like to welcome Isaacc Mongta-Kirby to the Smith Street Unit. Isaacc is in Year 9 and is from Oak Flats High School. Isaacc's favourite subject is **Maths...** The staff look forward to meeting you in 2017.



Congratulations to David Hermann.
David accepted a placement at Five Islands Senior College. David is an exemplary student and he will make us all proud!!! We wish you all the best for 2017!

Presentation Day Highlights



On Thursday 8th of December, the Smith Street Unit hosted its second Annual Assembly. The students, parents, teachers, Services' representatives, and special guests celebrated the achievement of the students and enjoyed a light morning tea.



We welcome the parents, students, services' representatives, and special guests!!!



AWARDS



Chairperson

Jack Mitchell



WOW Participation

Jaydan Clifford



Sportspersons of the Year

Dryden Jack

&

Joshua Thompson



Chairperson:

Jack Mitchell (Year 12)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Acknowledgement of Country:

Cyndy Starr

Welcome and Thanks

Chahla Maksour

Opening Address:

Merryl Bennett - Transition Support Teacher

EVET and WOW students 2016:

Merryl Bennett & Jenny Clancy

Participation in CHAIN and Links to Learning Program:

Presented by Katie Myers & Rachel Hannon

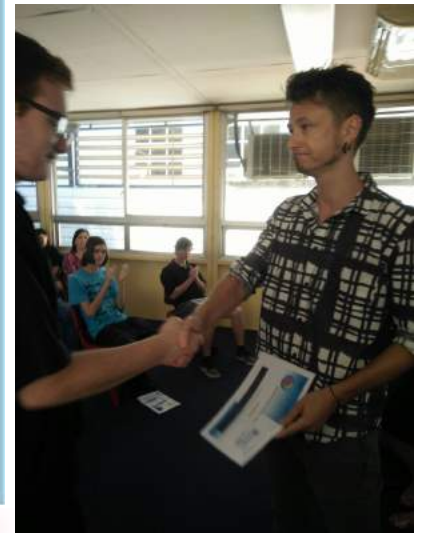
2016 Class Achievement awards:

Presented by Leanne McKay & Ben Hightower



Class Achievement Award
Year 8

Emeka Benson



Class Achievement Award
Year 11

Jack Mitchell



AWARDS



Karabar Distance
Education Academic
Achievement Award

David Hermann



Excellent School
Attendance Award

Bailey Stopher



Quiet Achiever Award

David Hermann

2016 Student Gold, Silver, Bronze and Academic Achievement:

Presented by Jeanine Dunkley
&
Alison Bradney

2016 SLSO's 'All-Rounder' Award:

Presented by Petrina Tairua & Ziik Savu

Awards for Excellent School Attendance:

Presented by Loretta Smith & Bryce O'Connor

Flametree & Smith Street Unit Partnership

award for the 'Quiet Achiever':

Presented by Wendy Stothard

2016 Sportsperson of the Year Award:

Presented by Rennay Hogan & Cyndy Starr

2016 Smith Street Unit 'Student of the Year' Award:

Presented by Paul Ryan

Vote of thanks: Emeka Benson

2016 Student of the Year

Dryden Jack



Karabar Distance Education
Academic Achievement Award

Bailey Murray



Karabar Distance Education
Academic Achievement Award

Emeka Benson



All Rounder Award

*Joshua
Thompson*



CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to the students who achieved Bronze level in 2016



Bailey Murray



Links to Learning 2016

Joshua Thompson



Congratulations to the
graduating Year 10
students for 2016

Emeka Benson



David Hermann

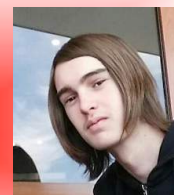


Congratulations to the students who completed EVET courses in 2015-2016

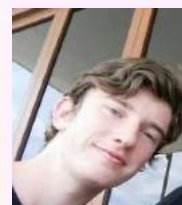


Jack Mitchell
Digital Animation

David Hermann
Primary Industries Horticulture



Dryden Jack



Retail Baking & Bricklaying

The Smith Street unit is a service of the New South Wales Department of Education providing specialised support in a unique environment. Students are provided with individualised learning programs to meet the educational needs.

The unit has served the students of the Illawarra for over a quarter of a century with the key mission providing a nurturing environment where students can grow into mature young men and women. It is always exciting to see graduates come back to share their success stories.

The Smith Street Unit

53 Smith Street
Wollongong 2500

Phone: 42288884

Email: dale.dalsanto@det.nsw.edu.au

Fax: 42264052

Website:

www.smithst-s.schools.nsw.edu.au