



# MILLER MESSENGER

## NEWSLETTER 29 JULY, 2022

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1 August  | University Transition Program<br>SpecTex 22 Expo<br>RAS   |
| 2 August  | Women's Group<br>Community Access Program<br>SSW Athletics Carnival<br>Be Street Smart<br>ALNF Art Program  |
| 3 August  | SSW Athletics Carnival<br>Transdev Sydney Ferries<br>USYD Year 11 Future Focus                              |
| 4 August  | Parents English Class<br>Transdev Sydney Ferries<br>Study Day Year 12 LST/BST<br>Shine Shed                 |
| 5 August  | Transdev Sydney Ferries<br>Prefect Candidate Workshop   |
| 8 August  | University Transition Program<br>Year 8 Gala Day<br>Year 12 Music HSC Showcase<br>Living History WW1<br>RAS |
| 9 August  | Women's Group<br>Community Access Program<br>Construction—CAD Training & Assessment<br>ALNF Art Program     |
| 11 August | Parent English Class<br>Year 12 Music HSC Showcase<br>Year 8 Gala Day                                       |
| 12 August | South Cares Visit<br>Victory in the Pacific   |

### OFFICE HOURS

#### Monday to Friday

**Office Hours:** 8.30am to 3.30pm

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### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Volume 45

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the second semester of the 2022 academic year. I trust, that despite the inclement weather conditions over the winter vacation students and their families were able to rest and explore interests as well as reenergise.

With a deep understanding of the interconnectedness of the challenges we faced last term and in preparation for what lies ahead, each new school term brings positive change, including new staff and additions to the student body.

As it has become our custom, I would like to welcome the Intensive English Centre students who have chosen to continue their educational journey in high school and those students enrolling from other schools. As principal, I am looking forward to supporting and working with you and your families during your time at Miller.

I am also delighted to welcome Ms. Gill to the TAS faculty and Ms. Waite to the Intensive English Centre. Both Ms. Gill and Ms. Waite have an engaging classroom presence and a passion to instill a love for lifelong learning in students. Welcome back from extended leave, Ms. Hossieny who is returning to a position in the IEC, and Ms. Filiopoulos to the EALD faculty. With Mr. Hodgson pursuing other fields of endeavour, Mr. Mc Coy will be returning from leave to work part-time in the PD/H/PE faculty.

It goes without saying, that staff and student wellbeing enhances motivation, increases academic achievement, improves school satisfaction, and leads to flourishing individuals, communities, and nations. Simply put, those who feel better can learn better and with the specific aim of strengthening students' health and wellbeing, the Department of Education has implemented an initiative, the Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse Program (WHIN).

As a school and community, I would like to extend a warm Miller welcome to Ms. Hidalgo who has been appointed as our WHIN. Ms. Hidalgo brings a solid skill set and a gentle, sensitive approach to meeting the health and emotional needs of children and their families.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK CONTINUED

In my welcome to the new school term last week, I asked students to focus on the word – *perseverance*.

As you would be aware our **RISE** core value **EX-CEL** asks students to always try to do better to achieve “personal bests”. Well, one of the traits needed to achieve a “personal best” is *perseverance*.

However, while *perseverance* means never giving up on your ideals and goals **even when you are faced with obstacles or difficulties**, in the end, it is just plain hard work that really pays off for you.

For example, did you know that in inventing the light bulb Thomas Edison tried 1,000 different combinations before he found the right design and materials? The message is clear, if you believe in yourself and are willing to persevere, you will be amazed at what can be accomplished.

I admire people who persevere, as they can teach us many things from their experiences. Remember *perseverance* can be displayed in small as well as big ways. *Perseverance* is being committed to following through on your ideals and goals.

When watching the evening news each day you will see many examples of *perseverance*. One example that comes to mind is the Australian cycling veteran Simon Clarke who, crowned off a magnificent 20-year road cycling career, with his first ever stage triumph in this year's Tour de France.

Something else that took my attention in the local news over the holidays, were the words written on a T-shirt of someone helping others during the recent flood crisis. The words written on the T-shirt were – **resilience**, *perseverance*, and **hope**. This means people care and work hard to help others who have experienced a disaster.

They never give up! That is *perseverance*!

Another example is the people who keep working to find a "road map" to resolve conflicts

around the world peacefully, or those trying to address human rights issues. That takes *perseverance*!

Another example is the people who keep working to find a "road map" to resolve conflicts around the world peacefully, or those trying to address human rights issues. That takes *perseverance*!

During this school term, I know there will be many examples of *perseverance* by students. I wonder in which classrooms we can find the most instances?

Perhaps it will be in the Year 11 and 12 classrooms as students persevere with the academic rigors to complete the Preliminary and Higher School Certificate course requirements this term.

### NAIDOC Week

During the winter vacation (3-10th July 2022) Australia celebrated NAIDOC Week (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee). NAIDOC Week's origins can be traced back to the Aboriginal rights movement, and on Australia Day 1938, protestors marched through the streets of Sydney to highlight the status and treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

This protest was one of the first major civil rights gatherings in the world and was known as the 'Day of Mourning'. This later became 'Aborigines Day', and in 1955, it was decided that it should become a positive celebration of Aboriginal culture, heritage, and achievement, rather than a protest.

Today, NAIDOC week is a time for all to celebrate and recognise the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A time to honour those who have already driven and led change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, over generations.

This year's theme **Get up! Stand up! Show up!** resonates deeply in my understanding of where we are today. It is hard to imagine our school without the strong connections we have with our Liverpool Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (LLAECG), Aboriginal elders, and community people. The significant contributions that they have played in enhancing our understanding of culture and tradition sit deep in our consciousness.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK CONTINUED

The pathways that they have laid for all of us, particularly our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are significant and life changing. It is a *'way of being'* for every one of us.

Our NAIDOC week celebrations consisted of a range of traditional and contemporary activities. During Wednesday's whole school assembly students from the Aboriginal Leadership Group shared their insights into the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's histories, culture, and achievements increasing our opportunity for knowledge and understanding. The welcome dance performed by Kiara, Rozeonda, Carter, and Dakota and Sally's Acknowledgement of Country was inspirational.

Other celebrative activities organised by the Student Aboriginal Leadership Group and teachers included a cake stall and a whole school barbecue to finish the week.

### **Term 3 COVID Smart measures**

Last week I provided an overview of how we are continuing to ensure our school remains safe throughout this term with our layered COVID-smart approach. These are 'baseline measures' developed by the Department of Education and are aligned to the NSW Government's general community settings. These include:

- Staying home and getting tested if unwell, and only attending school when symptom free.
- Encouraging mask-wearing for all staff and students, particularly in the first 4 weeks of term.
- Rapid antigen testing for symptomatic students and staff, and close contacts attending school to learn and work.
- Strongly encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations for students, staff, and their families, including a booster shot (when eligible).
- Strongly encouraging students, staff, and their families to get a flu vaccination.

- Strict requirements for close contacts attending schools with support units: including restricting close contacts from attending SSPs and support units.
- Good hygiene practices.
- Maximising natural ventilation.
- Boosted cleaning during the day, with particular attention given to high touch surface areas.
- Responding to local COVID-19 conditions, when necessary, by working with the department's Health, Safety, and Staff Wellbeing team.

In a final comment, a big thank you to all the students and staff involved in the organisation of our NAIDOC week celebrations. It is important to understand that we do not need to assimilate into one culture, in preference over others. The difference is a great thing, and our society can only benefit from a range of world views and experiences.

Please spend some time reviewing this week's Miller Messenger and continue to check our various online communications, including the High School (<https://miller-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>) and Intensive English Centre (<https://milleriec.schools.nsw.gov.au/>) websites, MTHS Facebook page and School Stream for updates.

As always, if you have any questions or needs, please contact the main school office. Our staff is always more than happy to help.

Regards,

Dr. Ken Edge  
(Principal)



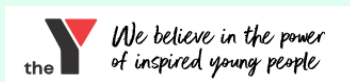


## YMCA Camp Yarramundi

In week nine of term two, year seven students had the fantastic opportunity to attend our annual YMCA Camp at Yarramundi. On the 22nd of June, Mr Caddy, Ms Gulic, Ms Souzi and a group of excited students set off on an action-packed three-day adventure in the Hawkesbury. Students took part in a variety of activities such as archery, the giant swing, obstacle courses, orienteering, the flying fox and more.

The students learned how to listen to each other, work as a team and solve problems to achieve a common goal. Friendships were developed and strengthened, and memories were made. The essential skills developed by students at camp will help to build upon what they have already learned this year during Project Based Learning and support them as they develop into independent learners.

N. Gulic



## NAIDOC Week

Week 1 at Miller was a week filled with activities and events for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We celebrated in true Miller fashion with a fabulous assembly including a traditional welcome dance, Sanding the stools that will form part of our yarning circle that is underway. We also had a brilliant Thursday and Friday with a cupcake fundraiser and Sausage sizzle where the whole school supported the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to raise almost \$1000 to go towards the Westmead Children's Annual Toy Drive and to purchase shade sail to be placed over the yarning circle.

Thank you all of those people that helped us make a good week even better!!

R. Northcott





## IEC Gardening

Miller IEC students have recently been enjoying some gardening. The immense joy and sense of achievement can certainly be seen on their faces. Thank you to Ms. Tamine for developing their green thumbs. I think we may have some budding gardeners well on their way!

C. Rousseau



## Women's Group

The women's group is continuing with their activities this week. They had a very useful session from (the Getaway Pathway organisation). This session was about how to support the people who are a carer to either old or young people in their family or from the community also with several services that this Getaway Pathway provides.

We had 17 women attend the session and they were very appreciative to Miller High School to be able to get this valuable opportunity at the school premises. Huge thanks to our ladies in the office who always make parents feel welcome.

S. Shiba



## FICT Program

We ran a FICT program in Term 2 for IEC parents. This program aims to help new arrivals settle into their new country, Australia. On Sunday 26th of June, we celebrated by giving them certificates and taking them on an excursion. They had a great time.

H. Saleh



# CAREERS

## Wednesday (August 3, 2022)

**UAC Digital - Let's Chat "Alternative pathways to university"** UAC will be joined by a panel of admissions experts from various universities to discuss:

- pathways you can take if you don't meet your dream course's selection criteria
- the benefits of taking a pathway course
- pathway course credits you can receive if you want to get into an undergraduate degree
- which unis offer pathway courses

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Location:** Online

**Details and Registration:** <https://uacdigital.easywebinar.live/registration-lets-chat-alternative-pathways-to-university>

## Thursday (August 4, 2022)

**UAC Digital – Let's Chat "Student teachers, Live, love, teach"**

If you are interested in teaching then this session is for you. Current students from a range of uni's share their experiences of student life. Topics covered include:

- how they decided on the course they are studying
- what they found easy about the process of applying and enrolling, and what they found hard
- what they thought uni would be like
- the best thing about being at uni
- their hopes and dreams for when they finish

**Time:** 6.00pm

**Location:** Online

**Details and Registration:** <https://uacdigital.easywebinar.live/registration-let-s-chat-student-teachers-live-love-teach>

## Saturday (August 6, 2022)

**University of Wollongong - Open Day** Start your journey now and see what courses are on offer for you in 2023.

**Time:** See link below

**Location:** UOW Wollongong campus

**Details and Registration:** <https://www.uow.edu.au/openday/>

**Torrens University – Health, Business and Education Open Day** Want to know where a course in Health, Business or Education can take you? Register your interest for Open Day to explore endless career options. There will be academics, industry guests, students and alumni, who can help put you on a path to success.

**Time:** 10.30am - 1.00pm (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane)

**Location:** Sydney: 46 – 52 Mountain Street, Ultimo

**Health Registration:** <https://www.torrens.edu.au/whats-on/open-day/health-open-day>

**Business Registration:** <https://www.torrens.edu.au/whats-on/open-day/business-open-day>

**Education Registration:** <https://www.torrens.edu.au/whats-on/open-day/education-open-day>

**ACU - Strathfield Open Day** Deciding what to study is a pretty momentous decision. That's why ACU run Open Day – it's everything you need, in one place, to help make your choice. This year ACU are running both on-campus and online Open Days. The choice is yours – immerse yourself in the campus atmosphere or join in online from the comfort of home.

**Time:** 10:00am

**Location:** Strathfield Campus

**Details and Registration:** <https://openday.acu.edu.au>

## Wednesday (August 10, 2022)

**Defence Careers Virtual Information Session**

Consider a career like no other and represent Australia with pride in the Navy, Army or Air Force. Speak with current serving personnel at the upcoming info session and ask your questions- is a career in the Australian Defence Force for you?

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:** Online

**Details and Registration:** <https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/events/events-detail/4pj8x9c>

**Defence Careers - Army Careers Virtual Information Session** Optimise your potential and consider a career that will transform you into a fit, capable, confident and resourceful member of the Australian Regular Army. Discover whether an Army career is your kind of challenge at the upcoming virtual info session.

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Location:** Online

**Details and Registration:** <https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/events/events-detail/i7ylyvg>

## Saturday (August 13, 2022)

**Macquarie University Open Day** Macquarie University's Open Day is an experience made for (YOU)us. Join in to learn how our industry connections, passion for collaboration and appetite for unconventional thinking will help you achieve remarkable things.

**Time:** See link below

**Location:** Macquarie University

**Details and Registration:** <https://event.mq.edu.au/open-day-2022/registration/Site/Register>