On Monday 27th Sorry Day was celebrated at CSC. This was achieved by holding a performance in the undercover area at 1st break. This included an acknowledgement of Country and speech by Ambassadors, didge playing by local Gubbi Gubbi man Kerry Neill, damper tasting, giveaways and a cardboard boomerang throwing contest held on the college green. Plenty of fun was had by all involved and a strong cultural message was heard by the students.

What is Sorry Day and why is it so important?

It’s not often that you see the government issuing an apology to its people, but it happened once. In 1998, a year after the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families in the Bringing Them Home report, Australia experienced its first National Sorry Day. This is the day where Australians around the nation convey their remorse for the harm done to their indigenous brothers and sisters by previous governments’ forcible removal policies.

A decade later, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd issued an apology to the Stolen Generations on behalf of the Australian government and parliament. This carries tremendous significance, even today. The process of reconciliation doesn’t happen over a night or a fortnight, but Rudd’s apology was a monumental step in achieving progress towards healing.

In his address, Rudd stated the following: “My proposal is this: if the apology we extend today is accepted in the spirit of reconciliation, in which it is offered, we can today resolve together that there be a new beginning for Australia.” He proceeded to call for a policy commission to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in “life expectancy, educational achievement and economic opportunity.”

From this point in time forward, the “Close The Gap” campaign began (2006) and the Australian government adopted the campaign blueprint two years after. The Australian Parliament passed a motion in 2010 to recognize and commemorate annually May 26th as National Sorry Day at the request of The National Sorry Day Committee. The observance of May 26th as Sorry Day has raised awareness not just among the greater public but also with politicians and those who create and implement the laws that govern us.
Cultural Cook - up

To help promote cultural awareness to the students here at CSC, each Wednesday at the secondary campus a lunchtime activity is organised for students to participate in. Recently former college Ambassador Nicole Rizzuto has come on board to help lead this initiative.

Nicole and Ms Newton now volunteer to run the girls group each week and it is quickly growing in popularity.

Recently the girls spent their break time in the kitchen learning how to make damper—no ordinary damper though— it was Choc-Chip damper!

Throughout the lesson cultural information is discussed and many student questions are answered in an all-girl setting.

Both Nicole and Ms Newton have big plans for the second semester of the year and the girls in the group are sure to enjoy themselves and learn about Indigenous cultures along the way.

There is also a lunchtime activity for the boys at CSC, and we will feature it in later editions. If you have any questions about these groups please contact either Jayme Field or Jackie Newton.

ASSETS 2013

Adelaide – December 13th – 22nd

GET INTO ASSETS!

ASSETS is an annual residential science and technology program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from around Australia. ASSETS takes place in Adelaide, South Australia and is cost free, including return air travel and accommodation, for all participants. Accommodation is provided at the Wilga Residential Project, a highly successful Indigenous student boarding facility and valued partner in the ASSETS program.

Students eligible to apply for ASSETS are those who:
- are completing Year 10 or Year 11 studies in 2013
- have an interest in, and aptitude for, science, technology and mathematics
- identify with their respective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage
- are prepared to challenge themselves academically and personally in a supportive environment
- want to meet and work with like-minded people

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible students should be encouraged to apply and, on their behalf, schools are requested to register an expression of interest on the ASSETS website. Once an expression of interest has been lodged, which can include multiple students, the nominating teacher will be contacted with final application details.

Register at www.asms.sa.edu.au/assets/register

Further information is available on the website www.asms.sa.edu.au/assets or by contacting Rob Ball ASSETS Project Officer: rob.ball@asms.sa.edu.au or 0412 138 743

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Participants in the ASSETS program will:
- solve a "crime" using advanced CSI techniques
- investigate the mysteries of micro-biology and DNA
- use control technologies to build a robot
- extend and consolidate their cultural identity and leadership potential

ASSETS: Inspiring and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to succeed in science careers.