Four Year nine girls, Justine Peters, Caryn Hampton, Tanisha Brooksby and Kiara Norford, attended the recent National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Association (NASCA) Girls’ Career Camp late in Term 1.

The camp, which ran for four days, was held at NASCA HQ in Redfern and included Aboriginal girls from all over the State.

During this time the girls were inspired by talks from CEOs of some of Australia’s leading companies, including QANTAS and Westpac Bank, offering advice and encouragement about careers and higher education.

Additionally, and despite the wet and cold weather, the girls were taken to Manly Beach for some surfing lessons. While reports of success fluctuated, there can be little doubt the experience was enjoyed by all participants.

Overall, a good time was had, new friends were made, and some valuable lessons learned.

Many thanks to Lesley Marks for assisting with the organisation for the trip and the families of each participant for helping get the girls ready for the experience.

Lesley Marks, LHS Norta Norta, tutor, was successful in gaining an Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) position with Region.

She is now working out of Glenfield Office and is responsible for co-ordinating a wide range of programs and projects aimed at increasing outcomes for students and teachers in the Region.

There is no doubt that she will do an amazing job in this new role and, while she is a great loss to LHS, she is a major bonus for students across the Region.
Welcome Brenden

Lurnea is excited to be working with Brenden Moore, Community Greening Project Officer with the Botanic Gardens.

Brenden, a Biripi man from Taree, has been with the Botanic Gardens since completing his Horticulture apprenticeship in 2012.

Since then he has been working with schools and communities across NSW providing educational workshops on a range of sustainable, and environmental topics.

He will be providing professional advice and resources for our Bush Tucker Garden project, but also has a wealth of cultural knowledge to help pass on to the students.

Welcome Brenden, and we look forward to your time here at LHS!

Bush Tucker Garden

Work started this Term on LHS’ Bush Tucker Garden.

An enthusiastic group of students have spent a number of hours clearing out the flag pole garden in preparation for planting.

Led by Botanic Gardens Community Greening Project officer Brenden Moore, students learned a little about the many uses for native trees and plants, as well as how to spot a non-native species.

It was then all hands on deck, as students pruned, mattocked and shoveled their way through the garden in an admirable display of teamwork and cooperation.

Jayden Regan was especially excited when it came to cutting down a couple of jacarandas and was ably assisted by Fernando Zappavigna.

Work will continue on the garden over the coming months, with parents and community members welcome to assist.

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Hands On @ TAFE

Year 10 LHS student Jazmine Wing is currently attending a Hair, Beauty and Make-up course at Liverpool TAFE as part of the Hands On program.

The program, which provides practical training and skills to Aboriginal students runs one day a week for Terms 2 and 3.

Classes are run by industry trained professionals and offer students with fantastic employment skills and career pathways.

Jazmine is super keen and very committed to the course and has loved the first couple of sessions.
Reconciliation Week

Reconciliation Week, which is celebrated annually, recognizes both the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to Australian culture and acknowledges the work still to be done in improving health, education and social outcomes for the first Australians.

This year, Reconciliation Week has combined with a renewed push for acknowledgement of Aboriginal Australians in the Constitution.

This recognition is the next step in officially recognising the 40,000 years of Aboriginal culture in this country prior to white arrival, after the momentous apology issued by the Australian Government in 2008.

More information can be found at www.Recognise.org.au

NAIDOC Funding

LHS was advised just this week of receiving funding from the Prime Minister’s Cabinet to help celebrate NAIDOC Week.

NAIDOC Week is an annual event which celebrates and acknowledges the contribution Indigenous Australians have made, and continue to make to this country.

Additionally, it encourages all Australians, particularly young people, to speak out about injustice, racism and inequality.

The theme for this year’s celebration, which runs form July 6-13, is Serving Country—Centenary and Beyond.

There will be a range of activities in the school and local community and it’s a great time to get out and learn more about Australia’s Indigenous heritage.

Art on Display

LHS students will have their art on display at Casula Powerhouse as part of a new exhibition beginning Friday 23rd May.

The five students all took part in a graffiti art workshop with local artist Mistery late last year where they learned about graffiti drawing and painting skills.

Mistery returned to assist each student in painting a small canvas which will be added to a wall of works by South West Sydney secondary students.

Mistery was very impressed with the students’ willingness to learn and skill development.

He runs free graffiti art classes every Tuesday afternoon at Street Uni in Liverpool.

“...encourages young people, to speak out about injustice, racism and inequality.”
Culture Rap

LHS’ Indigenous Performance Group had their first major performance at last years’ Presentation Night.

The lead up was a frantic rush of last minute rehearsal and preparation, with didges, clap sticks and dancers flying wildly all around the stage as people polished their moves.

As performance time arrived, nerves were at an all time high, with the lights shining down, the students got stuck into business.

The night started with a moving rendition of the Australian National Anthem in both Dharrawal and English, backed by the didges and clap sticks and backing singers. The was a truly sensational way to start the evening, with an enthusiastic round of applause greeting the completion of the piece.

Then came time for the main event. In an all singing, all dancing all encompassing extravaganza, the performers wowed their audience with a combination of traditional and contemporary performance, culminating in a Michael Jackson inspired Hip Hop battle.

Many, many thanks go to the students for their hard work, but especially to Lesley Marks and the ‘Fluteloop’, Daniel MacPhearson for their time and effort in preparing the students for their debut.

The group will be back in 2014, bigger and better!!

Culture Rap is a newsletter that allows LHS teachers, students and parents to keep up to date with the school’s development of student cultural understanding.

It reflects the school’s shared values of respect, responsibility, fairness, tolerance and understanding by promoting cross-cultural appreciation amongst our community.

Culture Rap is produced once a Term in week 5.

Teacher and community submissions are welcome. Please email 200 word (max) stories and pictures of cultural events to timothy.cobon@det.nsw.edu.au