



ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Mount Lawley Senior High School has established a program to support the tertiary aspirations of a selective group of Aboriginal students throughout their secondary schooling experience. The aspects of the Aboriginal Excellence Program are listed below:

- Quality teaching and learning.
- Access to strategic support staff- access to tertiary institution mentors.
- Supportive School leadership.
- Engaging with parents.
- Monitoring students progress.
- Enhanced educational and career prospects.
- Effective teaching and learning environment that provides opportunities
- For students to develop their full potential.
- Targeted homework classes.
- Personalised learning programs.
- Strategic partnership with Edith Cowan University and Kurongkuri Katijin Centre.
- Supportive environment which celebrates Indigenous heritage and diversity.
- Develop leadership skills.





ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM



Students will also have access to a range of career and vocational opportunities during their journey at Mount Lawley Senior High School with parents contributing to their own child's personal plan.



The Aboriginal Excellence Program is consistent with Mount Lawley Senior High School's commitment to supporting the educational aspirations of its diverse student population.



ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM



The focus is the successful academic / educational outcomes for Aboriginal students:

- Identifying students with sound academic aptitude.
- Ensuring those students are located in a high expectations school environment.
- Developing a personalised learning plan for each student.
- Providing students with an effective teaching and learning environment.
- Complementing school programs with tutoring, mentoring, cultural curriculum, career focussed activities – including personalised learning plans.
- Engaging parents in the children's learning program.
- Monitoring student progress to ensure appropriate support is provided.



INDIGENOUS WAR VETERANS CEREMONY

ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE



INDIGENOUS WAR VETERANS CEREMONY



MOUNT LAWLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HONOUR INDIGENOUS WAR VETERANS RECONCILIATION WEEK AT KINGS PARK, MAY 2013

Mount Lawley Senior High School Aboriginal Excellence Program (AEP) students are becoming a regular feature at the Indigenous War Veterans Ceremony held annually at Kings Park. This year saw the State's Governor, Mr Malcolm McCusker QC, conduct the opening address followed by a great supporter of Mount Lawley SHS, ECU Professor Colleen Hayward AM. Both delivered emotional speeches about the valuable contributions made by Indigenous soldiers both past and present. Indigenous War Graves Chairperson, Mr John Schnaars, also spoke about the outstanding work being done in placing headstones and holding memorial services on the unmarked graves of Indigenous Veterans. He explained how this initiative helps bring families together and assist with the healing process, providing their loved ones with the recognition and dignity they deserve.

Mount Lawley AEP students, Fenix Laffar-Mansell and Jai Piercy (right) represented the school by laying a wreath beside the Kings Park War Memorial's 'Eternal Flame' while the Mount Lawley SHS school band and choir (below) gave quality performances throughout proceedings. Aboriginal Excellence Program students were inspired by the moving ceremony and are eager to research the contributions and experiences of "Aboriginal ANZACS" as a component of their 2013 program.

Philip Paioff, AEP Coordinator



Mr Schnaars is pictured above with ECU Professor Hayward AM, AEP Co-ordinator, Dr Phil Paioff, AIEO Ms Kickett



ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE



EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN CULTURAL TOUR TO KINGS PARK MARCH 2012

Year 9 students enrolled in Mt Lawley SHS's Aboriginal Excellence Program, alongside prospective Year 8 students, joined up with future mentors from Edith Cowan University for a cultural tour of Kings Park. The mentors are currently completing their Bachelor of Education degrees at the Mount Lawley Campus, whilst our Year 8 and 9 students are hoping to get to university in the next 3 - 4 years. All students, and staff from Mount Lawley SHS (Ms Ryder, Ms Derby and Mr Clayton), were provided with in-depth knowledge about the cultural significance of Kings Park. Local Aboriginal man, Greg Nannup, conducted the cultural tour, which he regularly runs around the Kings Park area. Students were amazed by the vast number



Later in the day, Phil Paioff (MLSHS) and Deb Callcott (ECU) talked to students about the expectations of the program and the significant benefits that will accrue as a consequence of being involved.

The day concluded with some pizza, drinks, frisbee throwing and an activity to make mentors and students from MLSHS comfortable with each other. It is anticipated that the university mentors will meet up with our students up to once a week to provide encouragement and direction (but not do their homework or assignments). Mentors will be required to document the process via a journal in order to prepare a brief report, which will assist them to gain formal accreditation.

Many thanks to Deb Callcott for arranging the program and Dr Phil Paioff, Professor Noel Nannup, Greg Nannup, Ms Derby, Mr Clayton, Ms Ryder and Mr Raphael for their support.



of culturally important stories that are linked to this breathtaking location in the heart of our city. The photograph below shows Greg talking to students at various locations of great significance. He also demonstrated bush survival techniques and explained how to access the vast array of foods, medicines and water holes that are available in Kings Park.

We also visited the site of the magnificent boab tree transported 3 200 km from the Kimberley. The tree is approximately 750 years old, which is over 3 times the period of non-Aboriginal settlement in Australia.



ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE



ROCK SOLID FOUNDATIONS – EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY INDIGENOUS ALUMNI

Current and prospective Aboriginal Excellence Program (AEP) students visited a unique site at Edith Cowan University where the names of over 500 past Indigenous graduates are honoured. The aim of the tour led by principal Mr Milton Butcher and Program Coordinator, Dr Philip Paioff, was to provide students with the encouragement and confidence to consider the possibilities of a tertiary education and introduce them to the Aboriginal Excellence Program as a vehicle for supporting them to achieve that end. This 'high expectations' program also receives generous support from mining company Independence **Group NL**.

On hand to provide the students with a 'guided tour' was ECU's Cultural Awareness Officer, Mr Jason Barrow seen addressing students in the picture below.



*(Gathering at the 'Granites')
Students observe the names of past graduates*



Jason explained the history and story behind the design of the seven granite stones and how they are set in accordance with the star cluster of the Seven Sisters. He proved to be a wealth of knowledge and provided the students with further encouragement to pursue a tertiary education (with a 'touch' of bias towards ECU of course).

Mount Lawley's Middle School students enjoyed the opportunity to visit this very special site and it is hoped that they will derive some inspiration from the many Indigenous graduates who subsequently went on to have successful lives and influential careers.

Dr Philip Paioff AEP Coordinator



ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE



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Mount Lawley Senior High School has established a program to support the tertiary aspirations of a select group of Aboriginal students. Students are identified on the basis of their Year 7 NA-PLAN results and the recommendations of Year 7 teachers. Five (5) students were accepted into the 2011 program and each student has been placed on a personalized learning plan (Term 1). Students have also been allocated a mentor from Edith Cowan University's Bachelor of Education Program and will have access to the Kurongkurl Katijin Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research. There is also an expectation that students partake in the school's homework classes.



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Parent involvement is a condition of the program and all parents are invited to contribute to their child's personal plan. Students will



also be exposed to a range of career and vocational options throughout their academic journey at Mount Lawley SHS. An added incentive for both students and their parents is a scholarship that has been generously provided by local mining company, **Independence Group**

NL. The scholarship covers contributions and changes for school programs, texts and excursions to various tertiary institutions and career facilities.

The Aboriginal Excellence Program is consistent with Mount Lawley Senior High School's commitment to supporting the educational aspirations of its diverse student population. For further details, contact Dr Philip Paioff on 0428 822 859.





ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE



Our school celebrated the successful of the Aboriginal Excellence Program was acknowledged for the role it has played in supporting some Aboriginal students. Introduced this year, currently 7 students are engaged.

A number of dignitaries attended including Professor Colleen Hayward, Professor Christine Ure and Dr Deborah Callcott from ECU. Several senior officials from the Department also attended, whilst several members of the Aboriginal Education and Training Council led by Chair, Ms Carol Garlett also attended. The program is evolving and is a partnership with ECU. Trainee teachers from ECU serve as mentors to the AEP students at our school.

Two of our students gave a presentation to the group and talked about the success of the program and the difference it made. Also attending this function were some Year 7 future applicants. Several positions will be available in Year 8 for 2012.



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MOUNT LAWLEY SHS'S AEP STUDENTS TAKE AIME

Mount Lawley SHS's Aboriginal Excellence Program students completed their first workshop with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience Team (AIME) at Edith Cowan University on Friday 3rd June. This national program uses trained university students to serve in structured mentoring relationships with Indigenous high school students. Mount Lawley's AEP students were inducted into the program during a full day workshop aimed at breaking down barriers and building relationships among ALL the students and their mentors.



The workshop commenced with a 'Welcome' from Shaun Nannup (above left). He focused on the themes of culture, identity and connection. Stories were also shared about the importance of being in tune with one's self, family and environment.

After morning tea, students were mixed across school groups and challenged by a range of team building activities that helped them to become more comfortable with each other and the program in general. Students were also provided with a 'workbook' that possesses a range of interactive activities centering on the importance of Aboriginality, Teamwork, Respect, Inspiration and Pathways to Success. Our AEP students enjoyed the day and are keen to embrace the challenges that lay ahead.

Philip Paioff AEP Coordinator



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ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

Parents, students, staff, friends and supporters of the Aboriginal Excellence Program attended a special ceremony at Mt Lawley Senior High School on 7 June 2012. Principal Milton Butcher welcomed the guests and provided an overview of the Program. He also acknowledged the efforts of Independence Group (IGO) in contributing to the program's success.



Program Facilitator, Phil Paioff extended Mr Butcher's comments and referred to a range of specific activities that the students had engaged in with the support provided by IGO. Students had participated in cultural education excursions to Kings Park, a campus tour of

Edith Cowan University and the Indigenous Veterans Ceremony at Kings Park.

One of the highlights of the evening was the brief presentations provided by students. Ben Jeakings (Year 9) explained how the program has influenced him over the past 18 months, whilst inductee, Teniesha Goldby-Dann (Year 8) explained how proud she was to be selected and the extent to which she has valued the experiences to date. Both students thanked their parents, staff and the Independence Group for making the program possible.

Independence Group Non-Executive Chairperson, Mr Peter Bilbe spoke about the rationale behind his

company's support of the AEP and provided an interesting analogy of how IGO started as a small company, taking risks but maximizing their opportunities to become a significant mining company. Peter encouraged the students to take the opportunities presented to them through the AEP. Subsequent to Peter's comments, Mr Butcher presented both Peter Bilbe and Terry Bourke (Company Secretary / Legal Counsel) with a Certificate of Appreciation and specially designed school pens. Phil also presented Peter and Terry with a couple of school ties, all as memento's of recognition for their time and support of the Mount Lawley SHS Aboriginal Excellence Program.

The final formality was a presentation of certificates to the four (4) new Year 8 inductees and the seven (7) Year 9 students. The evening concluded with everyone mingling over some hot beverages and treats.





ABORIGINAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Mount Lawley Senior High School is very well placed to deliver on these requirements because of the:

- High expectations environment.
- Quality educational programs.
- Access to strategic support staff.
- Central location and proximity to tertiary institutions.
- Supportive leadership.



The school is adjacent to an ever-expanding university campus which boasts a first class Centre for Indigenous Australian Studies: Kurungkurl Katitjin with which the school has close and growing links.

