

Primary entry #34: Tenambit Public School



The Tenambit Star



Indigenous culture is fully integrated at Tenambit Public.
Picture: Lydia King

Students are standing on sacred land

By TAYLOR TORRENS and JASMINE CAMPBELL

TENAMBIT Public School exists on sacred ground. The Wonnarua nation forms an integral part of the community and during NAIDOC Week, the school community celebrated cultural events strengthening the bonds between all members of the community.

Aboriginal elders played a significant part of the NAIDOC celebrations by organising cultural events including performances, art lessons, Dreaming stories and an official flag raising ceremony which followed a powerful assembly led by the Tenambit Aboriginal Dance Group.

This group attends the school and are very proud of their cultural heritage. Tenambit has approximately 360 students and over 50 identify as Aboriginal. Some of these students were professionally taught a spiritual dance courtesy of the Mindaribba Aboriginal organisation. One of the most important components of NAIDOC Week was the presence of significant Aboriginal community members – which actually occurs every week, not just during NAIDOC Week. The school has an Aboriginal homework club and Aboriginal students are supported by the Norta Norta tutorial program. The message that we all stand on sacred ground is embedded in daily life at Tenambit and students continue to learn and grow alongside our Wonnarua brothers and sisters.

By RYAN WOODFIELD and LISA WOODFIELD

ANZAC Day is one of the most significant events on our national calendar and presses an indelible mark on our national character.

This year at Tenambit, the school and the community celebrated the centenary of the landing at Gallipoli and a century of mourning, celebrating and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Extra significance of this occasion occurred at Tenambit Public School as it has one of the few memorials located in a public school anywhere in Australia.

The memorial is located at the front gate and each day when traffic, buses, students and passers-by approach or depart the school, there is a reminder of Anzac Day and that the traditions surrounding it are very important to the community.

The community felt so strongly about the reverence of the Great War, residents funded and constructed the memorial at the school in Edward Street in 1924, only six years after the conflict ended.

For the last 90 years through sun, wind and flood, this memorial stands to remind us what the cost of war and conflict places upon the shoulders of communities like Tenambit. There are 17 names etched on the memorial where they will remain forever. The memorial



Tenambit Public has a war memorial in their school grounds.

Picture: Jazabel Longworth

is registered with the War Memorial Register of NSW and was officially unveiled by Lieutenant C.E. Nicholson V.D. who was a distinguished recipient of the Volunteer Officers Decoration, an award instituted as early as 1892.

The War Memorial Register describes this monument as a “granite obelisk on a sandstone

block with a raised laurel wreath”.

The memorial contains extra significance as Tenambit residents H. Avar, P. Barton and C. Bird were all killed in action during World War 1, never to see Tenambit or their families again.

At a special service held at the school in May, wreaths were laid by all 16 classes and special words

were recited to honour the fallen and decorate the significant memorial.

The current generation has the privilege of preserving the memory of those who did not return from World War 1 and this is easier when a memorial is located at the front of our school to remind us always: ‘Lest We Forget’.



The Tenambit Public School Star Struck team in costume.
Picture: Kristy Robinson

Star Struck was simply amazing

By CHLOE HOPE, LYDIA KING, JORJA HOPE and JAZABEL LONGWORTH

THE finale at Star Struck 2015 capped off an amazing set of performances for thousands of students and hundreds of teachers, parents and helpers contributing to this epic occasion.

Students are given this opportunity to perform largely due to the dedication of staff and parents giving up

their time by spending hours transporting children to and from performances and making costumes.

Tenambit Public's dancers contributed to the performance of *Make Some Noise* and *Everything Is Awesome*.

Some of the real stars – the parents – including Melissa Hope and Trudy King, both

proud mothers, said: “The show was fabulous and so were the kids”. Mrs Doherty said: “It is a pleasure to make the costumes for our amazing dancers”.

There is no doubt Tenambit Public School would not participate in Star Struck without the support of so many wonderful people and the experience of the performers ensure Tenambit will be there again in 2016.



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