

## NEWS: Capalaba Get Into ATSI Culture

Capalaba State High School this year stepped up its support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by increasing awareness of their culture.

Capalaba's Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness program (ASSPA) committee consists of 13 students from Years 8 to 12, their parents and guardians and guidance officer Veda Fitzpatrick.

The committee organised several activities including the purchase of three Aboriginal and Islander works of art on display at the library, and a performance by the Imbala Aboriginal Dance Group, attended by Aboriginal and Islander students and Year 8 and 9 students. The dance group also gave a talk, displayed artefacts and

gave students the opportunity to try a didgeridoo.

The Aboriginal and Islander students and some parents and guardians went on an excursion to the NAIDOC Week celebrations in Musgrave Park, South Brisbane, and to North Stradbroke Island where they visited the museum and spoke to a long-time Aboriginal resident.

A collection of Aboriginal artefacts, including individually painted boomerangs, was acquired to start a social science department museum.

The ASSPA Committee also encouraged the involvement of parents and guardians in their children's education. □



## NEWS: Bundy's Artist in Residence

Aboriginal artist Jan Henderson has become Bundaberg State High School's first artist in residence, and her profound effect on staff, students and community members bodes well for the implementation of similar programs.

According to Debbie Quivooy, Acting HOD in Art at Bundaberg, Ms Henderson captured students' interest and enthusiasm with her distinctive art and persona. She exposed students to her own original work, painted and drew under observation by student class groups and instructed individual students during breaks.

'Jan has answered questions, and provided insight into artistic concepts and processes,' Ms Quivooy said.

'Her presence has been an inspiration for student artwork, a positive role model for youth and has fostered an opportunity for cultural exchange,' she said.

Ms Henderson is a descendent of the Butchulla people of Fraser Island, and has served as Chairperson of the Korrawinga Aboriginal Corporation for the past three years.



She has worked as Student Needs Coordinator at both Hervey Bay Senior College and The University of Southern Queensland.

She is also a committed artist and mother, and spends her time between her children and artwork, Ms Quivooy said.

Ms Henderson's paintings have been described as contemporary in style with a particular emphasis on sea creatures as subject matter.

The artist-in-residence program was made possible through funding from the school's Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness

Committee and the Bundaberg Art Society Inc.

Ms Quivooy said she was keen for other schools to hear of the success of Bundaberg State High's program.

'By sharing our positive experiences we may encourage other schools and educators to take on a cultural challenge,' she said.

**Editor's Note:** These three short articles originally appeared in *Education Views* on 9 December 1994 and are reprinted with permission of the Public and Media Relations Branch of the Queensland Department of Education.

## NEWS: UQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Participation Project

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit at The University of Queensland has identified the need to develop detailed monitoring strategies to gauge the participation and academic performance of indigenous students at The University of Queensland. To reach this goal the Unit has launched a project which aims to investigate the participation and post-study destinations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The objectives of the project are:

- to determine the major trends associated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student participation and academic performance
- to explain these trends by way of a survey of past and present students, and to establish

mechanisms to monitor the future performance of students.

The principal motivation for undertaking the project is to develop the capacity to monitor the effectiveness of University strategies and approaches to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education policy. It is expected that this capability will enable the Unit to identify strategies for assisting students to complete tertiary studies while fulfilling their cultural obligations.

For further information, or any input into the project, please contact Peter Christensen at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, 4072, or by phone on (07) 365 6958 or facsimile (07) 365 2359. □

