

Dear Principal, First Nations Education Advisors and Visual Arts and Music Teachers,

I am writing to invite the students of your school to participate in the thirteenth annual **Thoughts 'n' Dreams** Myall Creek Memorial Student Art, Writing and Song Competition. Sponsored by the Friends of Myall Creek National Committee, Sydney Friends of Myall Creek and Armidale Friends of Myall Creek, the competition encourages students to address and express different concepts of Reconciliation. This year's competition theme is:

Caring for Country starts with me.

The competition can be entered with either written pieces including short stories, poems and essays; artwork including painting, drawing, collage, sculpture or digital graphic and song. We have even had some students choreograph a dance entry. We are VERY excited to see what all your students come up with for this years competition.

The last twelve years have been a resounding success with entries from throughout north-west NSW, Sydney, Queensland and the ACT...we hope to increase awareness and the number of entries this year. The competition can be approached either as class-set group or individual tasks or individual home projects... previously we have received many of both. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the 2021 competition will be accepting both physical and digital entries. We encourage all group entries to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

I would also like to invite you and your students to the annual Myall Creek Memorial Service for those who died in the Myall Creek massacre of 1838. The service will be held at the memorial site at Myall Creek on **Sunday 13th June** (June long weekend).

The day's events start at 9.00am with morning tea at the Myall Creek Hall on the Bingara-Delungra Road.

We will then proceed to the memorial at 9.45am for the ceremony, returning to the hall for a barbecue lunch. There will also be music and dance performances.

The ceremony, including the walk to the Memorial and back, will take about three hours. After returning to the hall a barbecue lunch, provided for purchase by the Myall Creek CWA, will be available to you, your colleagues and students. It will be followed by the presentation of prizes and a cultural performance program. However students would be free to leave by approximately 1.00pm, if they choose not to stay for lunch or the presentation of prizes for the **Thoughts 'n' Dreams** Competition.

I hope you will be able to attend and that students from your school choose to participate in the thirteenth annual **Thoughts 'n' Dreams** Myall Creek Memorial Student Art, Writing and Song competition. There is a two page entry form pdf attached in this email, if you could please pass it on to your teachers and students it would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively, if you require any additional information please contact me on 0414 418 600 or email jo@hopwoodmiller.com

PLEASE NOTE: On **Saturday 12th June**, the Friends of Myall Creek Committee will be holding a free concert out at the site to celebrate the opening of the Stage 2 Precinct including a cultural performance space and native bush garden. We would love for you to join us.

The concert starts at 1.00pm, with lunch available to purchase on-site from the Bingara Lions Club from 12.00pm.

If you require any further information on Myall Creek and the memorial, please visit our website www.myallcreek.org

Yours sincerely



Jo Miller

FRIENDS OF MYALL CREEK MEMORIAL INC. ABN 87 040 729 116

PATRONS – *Mr Nathaniel Blacklock and Ms Linda Burney*

Memorial Address: Cnr Bingara-Delungra Road and Whitlow Road, Bingara NSW 2404

Postal Address: 12 Lamb Street, Lilyfield NSW 2040

Telephone: 0411 620 220 Email: kamilaroumurrilad@gmail.com Web: www.myallcreek.org

