

DECEMBER, 2025

# Kempsey High Term 4 Wrap



## Welcome to Term 4, 2025

Term 4 has been a busy and rewarding period across our Northern Sites as we celebrate End of Year Awards and recognise the achievements and successes of our students throughout the year. Our sites have demonstrated strong dedication and commitment to achieving positive outcomes, providing wrap-around support and mentoring to ensure student success. Our staff have continued to deliver outstanding work across the year, and their efforts have been instrumental in supporting our students. I would like to sincerely thank our schools, families, and community partners for their ongoing support of the NASCA program. We look forward to continuing this strong collaboration into 2026.

**Misty Kelly NSW Regional Manager**

## Kempsey Children's Service 60th Anniversary

Kempsey Children's Services proudly celebrated its 60th anniversary on October 20th with a community event. The celebration began with a vibrant and moving performance by the NASCA Dance Group, who were invited to help honour the occasion.

The young dancers took centre stage, captivating the audience with traditional movements that paid tribute to their rich cultural heritage. Each step was a powerful expression of identity, pride, and connection to Country, reflecting the deep ties they share with their community.

Their performance set a respectful and joyful tone for the day, embodying the spirit of unity and celebration that Kempsey Children's Services has fostered for six decades.





## NASCA 30th Birthday Anniversary

On Friday, 17th October 2025, NASCA commemorated an incredible milestone, 30 years of empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth, with a vibrant celebration held at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence (NCIE) in Redfern. The event brought together communities, schools, artists, and leaders from across NSW to honour NASCA's legacy and ongoing impact.

Among the proud participants were students from Kempsey High School and Melville High School, who were invited to perform a traditional dance as part of the event's Welcome Ceremony. Their performance was a powerful tribute to culture and connection, and set a respectful and joyful tone for the day's festivities. It was a moment of pride for both schools, showcasing the talent and spirit of their students on a big stage.

One of the standout contributors was Lailah-Jayde Luckett, a proud Aboriginal artist whose work was featured at the event. Her artwork, rich in cultural symbolism and storytelling, drew admiration from attendees and sparked conversations. Lailah-Jayde's display not only gave her greater exposure but also led to the sale of several pieces, a testament to the power of art in connecting people and sharing culture. Her presence added a beautiful visual layer to the celebration..

The event also hosted a thrilling Traditional Indigenous Games (TIG) tournament, which brought together students from various schools to compete in a series of culturally significant games. Representing Kempsey High School, Khloe and Savannah showcased incredible skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the competition. Their efforts culminated in a grand final victory, earning them the title of tournament champions. Their win was celebrated not just as a sporting achievement, but as a moment of pride for their school and community.

NASCA's 30th anniversary celebration was more than just an event, it was a powerful reminder of the strength, resilience, and creativity of Indigenous youth. From dance and art to sport and storytelling, the day was filled with moments that honoured tradition while looking boldly toward the future.





## Morning Session

Our Term 4 Morning Fitness Program was a huge success. We consistently had around eight girls joining us each week, which was a huge improvement from the early days in Term 1 when we sometimes had as few as two.

The girls embraced the early starts and began our morning with a walk around the oval, followed by a game of basketball or footy, before heading back to school to enjoy a delicious breakfast together.

It has been a great way to build routine, connection and confidence, and we are so proud of how far our students have come!



## Afternoon Activity

Term 4's Afternoon Activity was the Decorating Committee. The Decorating Committee met regularly to plan and create decorations for the Kempsey High School NASCA Awards Night. Over the term, students worked together to choose a colour scheme and design the table centrepieces, cupcake stand, invitations, certificates, and slideshow. Everyone had the chance to share ideas, be creative, and help make decisions as a group.

Students enjoyed the hands on activities and took pride in seeing their designs come to life. The committee showed great teamwork and effort, and their decorations helped set the mood for a fun, welcoming, and memorable night. It was rewarding for students to see how their work contributed to a successful school event and to be part of something special.



## Sista Speak

Our Sista Speak program brought together an amazing group of girls who had the chance to get out on Country and really connect with culture, community, and each other. Trips to South West Rocks and Crescent Head gave the girls time to slow down, enjoy the land, and feel a real connection to the places around them. Being on Country helped them understand why these areas are so important and gave them a sense of belonging and pride in their culture.

Spending time with our Elders on Country was a really special part of the program. The Elders shared their stories, knowledge, and life experiences, creating moments that were powerful, moving, and full of meaning. Sitting, listening, and learning from Elders helped the girls reflect on their identity, culture, and the importance of walking proudly in who they are.

The program also helped build strong friendships and a sense of sisterhood within the group. The girls supported each other, shared plenty of laughs, and showed leadership during different activities. They tried weaving, painting, and even football, always ready to have a go at something new. Being on Country made these experiences even more special, as they could connect creativity and learning to the land around them.

The girls also worked together to plan next year's Sista Speak program, sharing ideas, setting goals, and talking about what they want the future of the program to look like. They even designed a logo and symbol to represent their shared identity, pride, and connection to Country.

Overall, Sista Speak was about so much more than just trips and activities. It was a space to grow, connect, and feel proud of who they are. The girls finished the program with stronger friendships, deeper cultural knowledge, and memories of being on Country that will stay with them for years to come. It was a truly special experience for everyone involved.

A huge thank you to Miss E and Martina for sharing this experience with us!





## NASCA Youth Awards

This year, staff proudly supported two students and their families to attend the NASCA Youth Awards in Sydney, held at the Bangarra Dance Theatre. It was an unforgettable night for Kempsey High, with two of our NASCA students receiving outstanding recognition.

Khloe was awarded the prestigious Youth of the Year title, and Matahn received the Community Award for her dedication and leadership. During the ceremony, two videos celebrating their journeys were unveiled, offering a heartfelt insight into who they are and the determination that has shaped their paths.

These awards reflect the hard work, resilience and pride our girls carry with them, and we could not be prouder.



## Durri ACMS SEWB Conference

The Kempsey High School and Melville High School NASCA Dance Group were invited to perform at the opening of the very first Durri ACMS Social and Emotional Wellbeing Conference in Kempsey. The event was completely sold out and held at The Slim Dusty Centre, with people travelling from all over the state to attend. Throughout the day, guest speakers shared their personal journeys, making the conference both powerful and meaningful.

Our girls performed at the very start of the event, setting a positive and emotional tone for the day ahead. They danced with confidence and pride, and their performance was met with a big round of applause from the audience. It was a special opportunity for the students to represent their schools and be part of such an important community event, and they should be very proud of themselves.





## KHS NASCA Awards

On the evening of **11 December**, we held our NASCA Awards Night at Kempsey High School. It was a small but special gathering, with students, parents and carers, school staff, and our Kempsey High School NASCA workers coming together to celebrate our students and their achievements throughout the year.

A large number of participation certificates were presented to recognise students' involvement in the Morning Program, Afternoon Art Activity, Dance Group, and Decorating Committee. It was great to acknowledge the effort, commitment, and enthusiasm shown by students across all NASCA activities.

### Award recipients for the evening included:

#### Attendance Award

- Alison Field

#### Value Awards

- Trust Award – Jahtara Donohue-Farrell
- Cultural Pride and Inclusion Award – Matahn Fernando
- Excellence Award – Lucy Horne
- Integrity Award – Emme Drew
- Collaboration Award – Savannah Inglis

#### NASCA Pillars Awards

- Culture – Lailah-Jayde Lockett
- Education – Breeanna Horne
- Community – Tanayah Vale
- Pathways – Ruby Hoskins-Gould

#### Impact Award

- Khloe Vale

#### Year 12 Graduation Awards

- Jessica Bruar
- Dakota Collins
- Shakaya Duncan
- Abbey Gordon
- Laveda Jarrett
- Amber Johnson
- Libby Kliendienst
- Veronica Roberts
- Julie Quinlan

The night was a great opportunity to recognise student achievements, celebrate their growth, and reflect on another positive year of NASCA at Kempsey High School.





## DreamFest

NASCA Academies came together at Lake Keepit for the Annual DreamFest Camp. Kempsey High School travelled with Melville and arrived to a warm Welcome to Country from Uncle Len Waters, who shared meaningful stories and knowledge of Country.

Throughout the weekend, students took part in a range of activities designed to build confidence, teamwork and cultural understanding. These included Ochre Art with Uncle Len Waters, Yarn Up Sessions with Uncle Ted and Aunty Shelly Fields, Slip and Slide, Mud Run, an evening Scavenger Hunt, and Stories Under the Stars. Each session encouraged students to connect with one another while culture remained the heart of the experience.

DreamFest was a positive, successful and memorable way to bring NASCA Academies together, strengthen relationships, and wrap up the year by building new friendships and shared experiences grounded in culture.



## NASCA Staff

### Team Leader

Jamie Lee Morris

### Program Leads

Jasmin Morris-Hamblion, Kiarra Cohen-Siensen, Njaree Quinlan

## 2026 NASCA Enrolment Forms

Enrolment forms for 2026 will be available in Term 1, 2026, from the NASCA Room. Every student must complete an enrolment form each year to be part of NASCA.

Enrolling each year helps ensure students stay connected to all NASCA programs and activities, including the Morning Program, Afternoon Activities, Dance Group, and special events. It also gives students the chance to update their details and let us know about their interests for the upcoming year. Make sure to collect and submit your form early so you don't miss out on all the exciting opportunities NASCA has to offer.

A huge thank you to all NASCA students, parents and carers, Kempsey High School staff, and executives for allowing us to make a positive impact on the lives of students at Kempsey High School in 2025. We look forward to continuing our support and helping our students thrive in 2026.

KHS NASCA Team.