



Young Tiddas on Country

Program Information Pack

Education | *Culture* | *Wellbeing* | *Empowerment*



An initiative of



Acknowledgment

Murawin acknowledges Australia's First Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians & Cultural Knowledge Holders of Country.

We pay our respect to Elders, past & present. We honour the deep time continuing connections to cultures, kin, & communities.

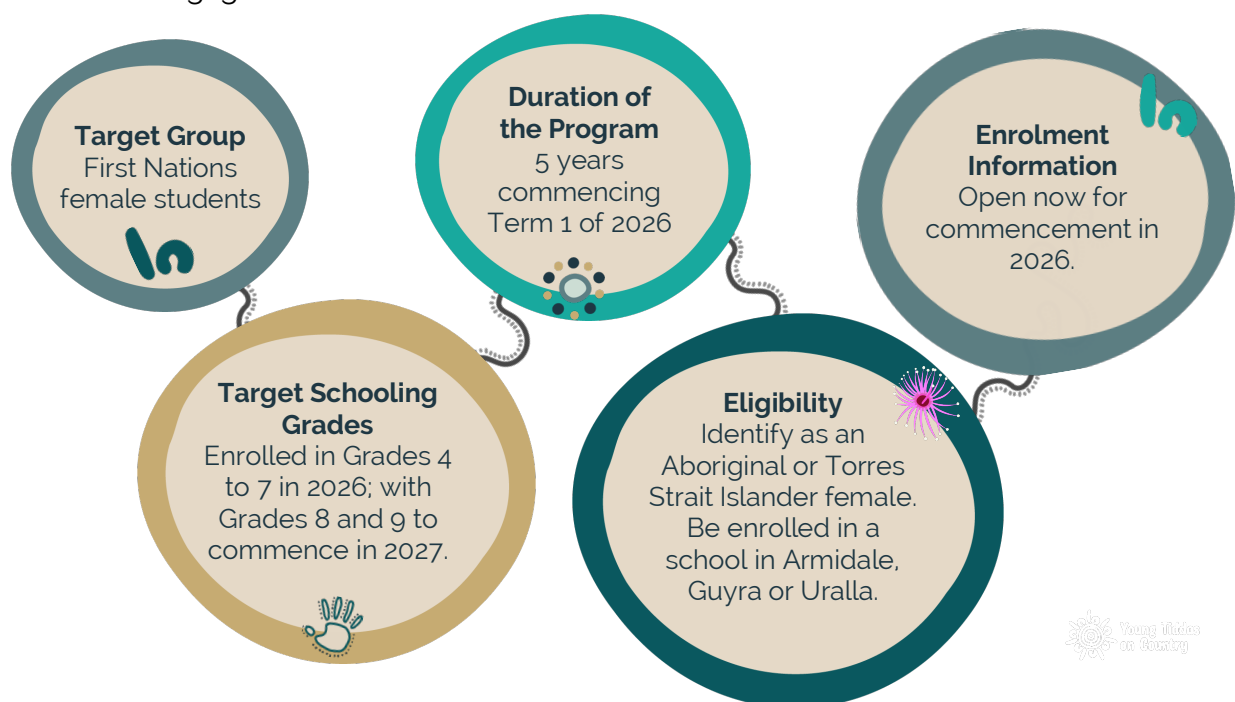


Introduction

Young Tiddas on Country is a five-year, community-led program supporting First Nations girls in Armidale, Guyra, and Uralla to thrive in both school and culture.

Enrolments Open Now

Launching in 2026, the program will begin with girls in Years 4–7, extending to Years 8–9 from 2027, with a strong focus on the critical transition from primary to high school where disengagement often occurs.



Delivered by Murawin as an initiative of the NSW Government, the program is guided by Elders, cultural knowledge holders, families, and local women, and works in partnership with schools, youth services, and community organisations. It creates safe spaces for cultural identity, education, wellbeing, and leadership, while remaining flexible and responsive to the voices of participants and community.

Together, these elements build the confidence, pride, and pathways for young First Nations girls to succeed at school and beyond, while staying deeply grounded in their culture and community.





Program Overview

The *Young Tiddas on Country* program is guided by four core goals that reflect the needs and aspirations of the girls, their families, and community. These goals focus on keeping girls engaged in school, strengthening cultural identity, raising aspirations for education and careers, and building confidence and leadership. Together, they form the foundation of a program that empowers young First Nations girls to thrive in culture, education, wellbeing, and life.

Designed to encourage the girls to be proactive participants in their learning both formal and cultural.

Improve First Nations female student engagement in school

Strengthen cultural identity and connection to heritage and community

Increase educational and career aspirations

Increase student confidence

What to Expect

Through *Young Tiddas on Country*, participants will experience a diverse range of activities that weave together culture, education, wellbeing, and leadership. From cultural immersion and tutoring support to creative expression and social enterprise, each element of the program is designed to nurture pride, confidence, and opportunity while staying grounded in community and culture.



**CULTURAL
IMMERSION
WORKSHOPS**



**LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT**



**LEARNING
SUPPORT AND
TUTORING**



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



**ART AND
CREATIVITY**



**SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**



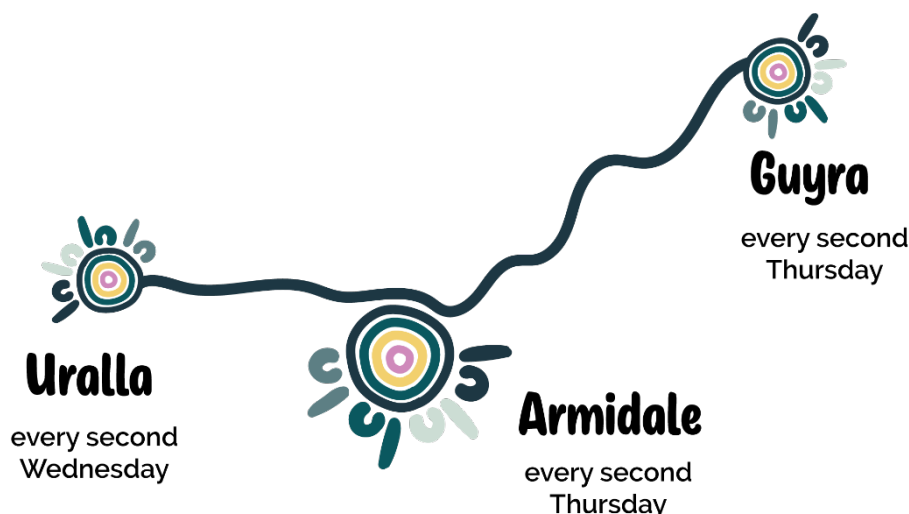
**WELLNESS AND
WELLBEING**

Program Snapshot

The Young Tiddas on Country Program Design will integrate four focus areas into a specially designed program that incorporates activities that will educate, nurture and empower the Young Tiddas to thrive as active participants in their schooling, community and personal lives.



The Young Tiddas will meet with Program Facilitators each fortnight to undertake the activities in their respective locations:



Parents, carers, guardians or school personnel will be responsible for providing drop-off and pick-up of the Young Tiddas to the location which the activity is being conducted. Location for each activity will be provided in the Young Tiddas on Country: Program Activity Timetable which will be included in the Welcome Pack at the beginning of each year.

Moreover, the Program Design will incorporate numerous combined activities for all cohorts to attend, along with their parents, carers, guardians or school personnel. The combined activities will provide an opportunity for Young Tiddas to connect with their peers and will be held On Country or in a venue that tailors to the needs of the activity being undertaken.

Program Activity Timetable

Below is an example of Term 2, 2026 Activities for the Armidale Young Tiddas.

Term 2, 2026			
Week	Date	Focus Area	Activity
1	Thursday 23rd April	 Education	 Reconciliation
3	Thursday 7th May	 Wellbeing	 Multisport
5	Thursday 21st May	 Community Responsiveness	 Native Trees
7	Thursday 4th June	 Culture	 Boomerang Introduction & Design
9	Thursday 18th June	 Education	 Tutoring
11	Thursday 2nd July	 Wellbeing	 Bullying

Please note that both Guyra and Uralla YToC Program Activity Timetable will be similar to Armidale with some alterations to Wellbeing and Community Responsiveness activities.



Program Team



Carol Vale – Cultural Lead

Carol is the Co-founder of Murawin and a Dunghutti Woman from Armidale with cultural connections to Gumbainggirr and Anaiwan peoples. She has extensive experience in Aboriginal education policy and program delivery and design. She is a Sociologist and trained in tackling the impacts of intergenerational trauma in Indigenous communities. Carol brings a wealth of experience in navigating complex community engagement and cultural knowledge to the program, ensuring it is rooted in Country, Culture and Community.



Cassie Strong - Program Facilitator

As a strong Anawain woman, Cassie's work as the Program Coordinator is deeply rooted in authentic relationships, trust building and empathy, thriving on achieving positive outcomes for community. This passion, alongside her extensive education, project management and business administration background, make Cassie an invaluable asset to the Young Tiddas team.



Birrillee Vale – Program Facilitator

As a mentor and facilitator, Birrillee, a Dunghutti woman from Armidale, utilises her cultural knowledge with her lived and learned experiences to support the young people in the program. She also brings a wealth of organisational, educational and administrative experience and applies this to the program to ensure effective and smooth operations.



Rachel Bobir – Program Manager

As Principal Consultant at Murawin, Rachel, a proud Aboriginal woman from Quandamooka Nation, will serve as the program manager. She has an extensive history of working in program delivery, workforce development and research and evaluation.



Terri Lethlean – Program Evaluator

Terri is a social impact consultant with extensive experience in cross-cultural facilitation, community engagement, and strategic project development. She has worked collaboratively with First Nations communities, cultural institutions, and government agencies to deliver impactful, culturally grounded outcomes. Most notably, Terri coordinated and led Murawin's Tiddas in Business program, supporting women's leadership and entrepreneurship across the country.

How can community be involved?

Young Tiddas on Country is about walking alongside what is already happening in community and building on the strengths, programs and services that are in place, and filling the gaps where extra support is needed. The program is not designed to stand alone, but to connect, collaborate and grow with community. By working together, we can create a stronger network of support around our girls, ensuring culture, education, wellbeing and leadership are nurtured in every space they move through.



Elders, Knowledge Holders and Community

We will partner with Elders, cultural knowledge holders and community to share their wisdom and guidance. This knowledge will be woven into activities through On Country days, yarning circles, storytelling, and guest speaker invitations.



Parent Engagement

Parents, carers and guardians are vital partners in the journey. The program will include opportunities for families to come together, such as annual camps, gatherings, and celebration events, as well as regular check-ins to ensure strong home-program connections.



Community Organisations and Businesses

Local organisations in education, health, culture, sport, and youth services can contribute by running workshops, offering mentoring, or providing practical resources. Businesses can get involved through sponsorship, in-kind support, or by sharing pathways into employment and training for future program graduates.



Educational Organisations

Schools, universities, and training providers will play a role in creating safe and inclusive learning environments. They may offer tutoring, mentoring, or pathways that support both current study and future aspirations.



Arts, Sports and Youth Organisations

Arts and creative groups can partner with the program to deliver workshops in storytelling, dance, visual arts, or music. Sporting clubs and youth organisations can host clinics, mentoring opportunities, and recreational activities that foster teamwork, wellbeing, and community belonging.



Volunteers and Community Champions

Local volunteers and role models are encouraged to share their time, knowledge, or skills, whether through mentoring, assisting at events, or supporting program activities.

If you want to be involved in any way, please contact Cassie and Birrillee.



Young Tiddas
on Country



Why is Government Funding the Program?

For too long, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls have faced systemic barriers to staying engaged in school. The NSW Government is funding Young Tiddas on Country to provide a targeted, community-led response that keeps girls strong in culture, confident in themselves, and supported through the critical transition years.

68%
of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
students completed
Year 12 in 2021

Compared to
91%
of non-Indigenous
students.

In 2022, attendance
rates were

75%
for Aboriginal
students

vs
87%
for non-
Indigenous
students.

Between 2019–2022,
attendance dropped

7%
for First Nations
students.

In the New England region
(2024):

Year 7 attendance: **76.9%**

Year 8 attendance: **62.7%**

Year 10 attendance:

47.4%

Why transitions matter

The move from primary to high school is one of the most important, and most challenging, times in a young person's education. For many First Nations girls, this is when disengagement begins. Without strong support, it can lead to falling attendance, loss of confidence, and leaving school early which can have lifelong implications.

Our response

Young Tiddas on Country begins with girls in Years 4–7, building a strong foundation before and during this transition.

By embedding cultural pride, community support, and tailored school engagement, the program gives girls the tools to succeed, in school and in life.

Enrolments open now!

Eligibility requirements for 2026

First Nations girls
who will be in
years 4-7 in 2026

Based in either
Armidale/Guyra
or Uralla Local
Government Areas

There are limited spaces for 2026 and enrolments are on a first in basis so please enrol as soon as possible. Once spaces are full, participants will go onto a waitlist.

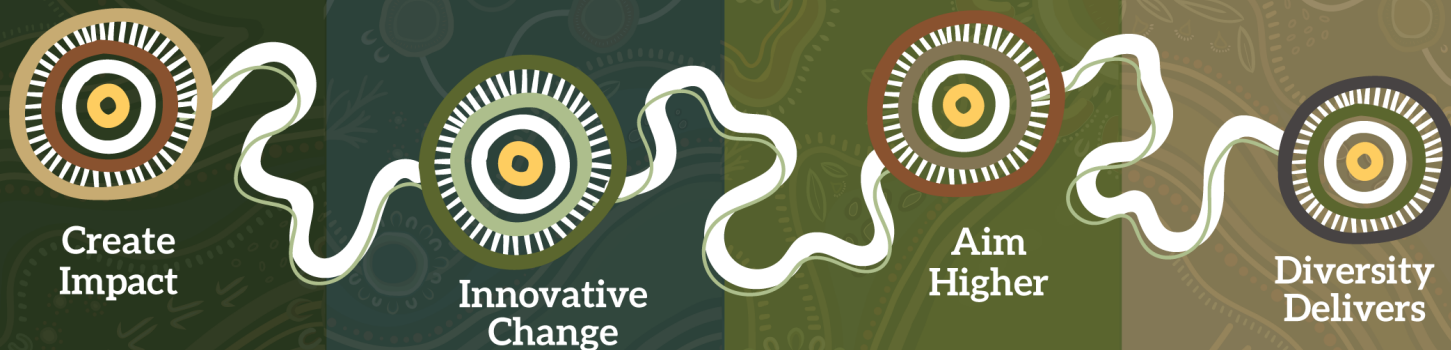


Enrol Now

<https://forms.office.com/r/D4nk3NHVqS>

Please use the QR code or link to enrol a participant or alternatively fill out the hard copy form included in this pack, and return to Cassie or Birrillee.

If you require assistance filling out the enrolment form or want to ask any questions, please reach out to Cassie on cassie@murawin.com.au or Birrillee on birrillee@murawin.com.au



About Murawin

Murawin is a national, Aboriginal-owned and led consultancy co-founded by Dunghutti woman Carol Vale. Whilst our work spans Australia, *Young Tiddas on Country* is especially close to home. Carol was born and raised on the mission in Armidale, and her lived experience mirrors that of the girls who will be part of this program. Murawin itself was launched in Armidale, and many of our staff, including those leading this program, are local Anaiwan, Dunghutti, Gumbaynggirr and Kamilaroi women who share deep cultural and community connections with participants and their families.

Murawin is committed to advancing social justice, cultural integrity, and economic empowerment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We bring extensive expertise in community engagement, research and evaluation, and place-based strategy. This means the program is not only grounded in culture but also strengthened by evidence, planning, and design that reflects the lived realities of the communities we serve.

We have a strong track record of delivering programs that empower First Nations women and girls, including the highly successful *Tiddas in Business* initiative, which created pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to step into entrepreneurship and leadership. For *Young Tiddas on Country*, we draw on this experience to provide participants with opportunities in leadership, creativity, and social enterprise.

At its heart, this program reflects who we are: a team deeply connected to Armidale and the New England region, committed to walking with our girls as they grow strong in culture, education, wellbeing, and leadership.

Contact Us

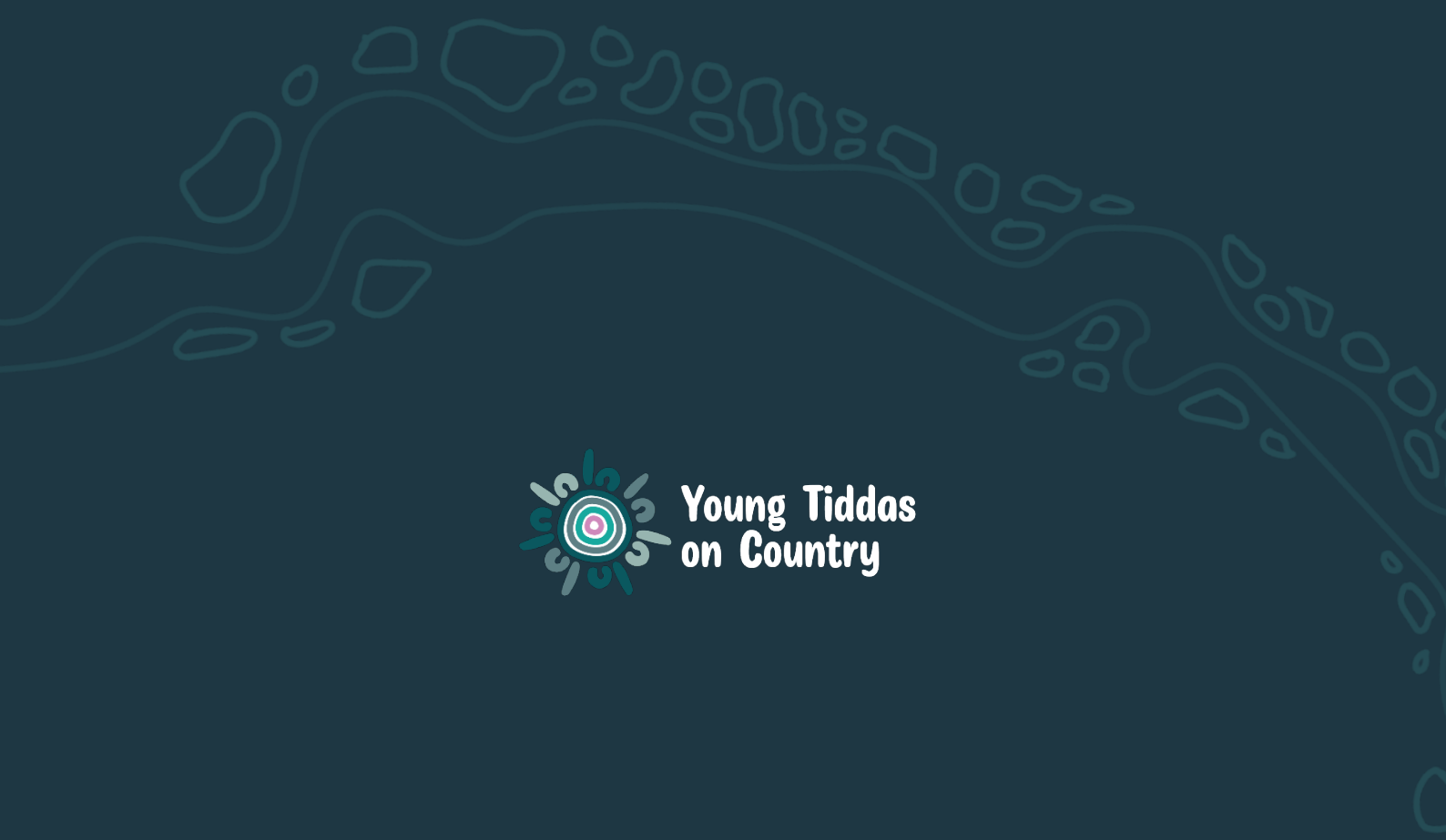
For all enquiries, questions or information, contact our program facilitators directly or email info@murawin.com.au

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**Young Tiddas
on Country**