

# Tamworth Girls Academy

## - Tamworth High School -

### 2017 Newsletter | First Edition



## Information Night

The Tamworth Girls Academy held an Information Night on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017. It was a very successful evening with a great roll up of Parents/Carers, students and staff to receive an insight to the Girls Academy. The presentation was delivered by Role Models and Leaders Australia, Girls Academy Chief Operations Officer, Terry Boland. We are looking forward to supporting and engaging our young girls and planning for a successful year ahead.



## International Women's Day - 8<sup>th</sup> March

International Women's Day is a globally recognised day where we get the opportunity to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity and this year's theme was #BeBoldForChange. At the Girls Academy, we annually celebrate International Women's Day by getting together with inspirational women (and men), hosting morning tea's/luncheons, exploring the fantastic achievements of women and raising awareness for the need for gender parity. Tamworth Girls Academy celebrated their first annual IWD with three special guests, who spoke about their life, struggles and how they came to be strong, independent and driven women.

- Brooke Kennedy, Lisa Shipley & Aunty Dot Shipley (who are local Gamilaraay Women)

Brooke & Lisa spoke about University of New England life and their passion and to be successful. Both ladies aspire to be role models for all Indigenous girls/women of Australia.

Aunty Dot Shipley spoke about her upbringing and starting UNE life at a mature age. She stressed the importance of listening at school and being supportive and encouraging to our girls. Aunty Dot says we should never bring each other down, we should always say nice things and build our women up to be strong and proud.

Tamworth Girls Academy was a very successful day with a good roll up of students and staff.



## Buddy Knox Mentoring Program

Buddy Knox is a local Aboriginal musician who donates his time to mentoring young and upcoming local Aboriginal singers. Buddy comes from a large family of musicians, but he particularly likes the Blues. Buddy mentors a number of girls and boys, all over Tamworth, and gets them performance ready. At Tamworth Girls Academy, Buddy is currently mentoring four very talented girls with a couple more interested in joining the program. Buddy is a beneficial asset to our Academy as we believe that music soothes the soul and is a form of relaxation and healing.

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#### Academies Staff Biographies

##### **Kim Knox - Program Manager**

Students call me: Miss, Kimi & Mum

I was born in Brisbane QLD and moved to Tamworth with my family when I was just 5 years old. I have a passion for culture, learning and sharing knowledge and family genealogy, something that has been instilled in my family throughout all generations and will continue to do with my own two children, daughter aged 17 and son aged 6.

I have been working at Tamworth High School for approximately 18 months, previously working with staff on the Mimii Guwaali (Sister Speak) and Wirribiiaan (Young Woman) Programs. I enjoy playing netball, listening to music, learning culture, trips to the cinemas and family gatherings, particularly with my QLD mob, who I don't get to see very often. Having been a single mother for many years and growing up with strong, independent and culturally driven women, I believe I have developed the skills and knowledge to pass on to our young Indigenous girls. As mothers, I believe we need to raise our kids to be respectful, loving, caring, confident and encourage and support them to be the best person they can be, whichever path they choose to take. I will endeavour to instil those values to our Girls Academy Girls.



##### **Leica Le Brocq - Development Officer**

Leica was born in Coffs Harbour and grew up in Tamworth, living here for the past 25 years. With a passion for team sports, Leica has played a variety of sports at representative level including touch, oztag, basketball, netball and more recently league tag, rugby and rugby league. Leica also has experience in coaching touch football, league tag and basketball, as well as involvement in RugbyTots and after school sporting programs.

Leica is a mother to an active 5 year old boy and enjoys family life and being a part of a large family. "I am excited at the opportunity to be involved in an awesome organisation such as the Girls Academy. I am passionate about supporting and developing our young girls and their aspirations, to become the strong women of our future and advocates for our community."

