PROMOTING SUCCESS

Science Week in partnership with Macquarie University

The above photo shows 2010 MHS Vice Captain, Jordan Walker leading a science demonstration for year 7 students and Yaegl Aboriginal Elders.

The Maclean High School/Macquarie University Science Week activities included practical demonstrations of scientific principals using household chemicals and interactive displays of insects and microbes.

The activities were presented by local Aboriginal student volunteers, who are trained to be teachers for a day, sharing their interest in science with their peers, parents and elders.

The Maclean High School and Macquarie University Indigenous Science education Program is a four time finalist in the national Eureka Science Awards. In 2010 Maclean High School was honoured by a visit from Prof. Penny Sackett, Australia’s’ Chief Scientist. Prof.Sackett met with year 7 students, top year 11/12 science students and spoke to local Elders about collaborative science projects in the area of bush medicines.

The interaction between school student and university staff helps to demystify university life for the school kids. This also assists them in making a connection between studying at university and having a career in science.

Macquarie Uni staff said:

"We keep coming back because of the fantastic feedback we get about this initiative. Students tell us that they feel more confident and motivated after participating in the program; we hear from parents and teachers that the students achieve better at school and are more interested in science and learning in general. We look forward to being part of this again in 2011”.

Our Science Faculty at Maclean High School

The Science faculty encompasses a wide range of subjects. In the junior years students can undertake Marine Studies as well as Agriculture as an elective. In the senior years subject choices include Earth & Environment Science, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Agriculture, Primary Industry and Seafood. Students continue to select their courses in large numbers with excellent results.