

# TERM ONE EDUCATOR'S NEWS

## OUR TOP PICK FOR 2024 **FOURTEEN**

BY SHANNON MOLLOY

ADAPTED BY SHAKE & STIR WITH SHANNON MOLLOY

*'Teenagers should read this book, parents should read this book. Human beings, above all, should read this book.'* Rick Morton, bestselling author of One Hundred Years of Dirt

Take a fantastic voyage through the human digestive system ... with sketches, songs and sensational science!



**MECC YOUTH  
AMBASSADOR  
PROGRAM 2024**  
SEEKING YEAR 10, 11 & 12 STUDENTS

## FROM CAMPFIRE TO STAGE LIGHT

*An epic journey toward self-determination  
& Indigenous pride!*

# 2024 THE YEAR AHEAD

# TERM ONE EDUCATOR'S NEWS



## VIP TREATMENT AT THE MECC FOR LOCAL TEACHERS

A catered high tea, goodie bags and an exclusive backstage pass! Over 50 educators visited the MECC on Tuesday 21 November, to enjoy a sneak preview of the MECC's 2024 School Entertainment Program.

The annual MECC Educators Launch is an opportunity to assist local primary and secondary schools with planning for the year ahead. The Launch also acts as a platform for schools to discover funding opportunities to help with financial costs associated with bringing students to the theatre.



Executive Manager MECC and Events, Andrew Bobeldyk said the Launch is an opportunity to recognise the impact teachers have on a thriving arts community.

"Students develop a love and appreciation of performing arts early in life, and then continue to enjoy these artforms into adulthood," he said.

"The support of teachers is significant as they bring new faces into the theatre; something we're incredibly grateful for," he continued.

Highlights from the afternoon included the announcement that popular funding program, Pathways to Performance, would continue to operate in 2024 with funding from BMA and Glencore Hail Creek Mine.

The program ensures meaningful curriculum-based excursions to the MECC are accessible for all students, regardless of backgrounds and locations.

"Since the program's inception in 2010, over 17,000 students have received funding," Mr Bobeldyk said.

In 2023 the program also funded Queensland Ballet's in-school workshops to travel to the Isaac Region, ensuring regional students were provided with the same opportunities as those in Mackay.

Teachers attending the event were thankful to hear the program would continue operating in 2024, with some making reservations and submitting applications on the same day.

"We're thrilled to have both BMA and Glencore Hail Creek Mine supporting this important program again in 2024" Mr Bobeldyk said.

Other highlights from the event included the announcement of 2024 DBCT Kids' Theatre Season (sponsored by Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal) and the MECC Youth Ambassador Program.

# TERM ONE EDUCATOR'S NEWS



# FOURTEEN

BY SHANNON MOLLOY

ADAPTED BY SHAKE & STIR WITH SHANNON MOLLOY

Those who attended the MECC Educator's Launch will be very familiar with Telina's appreciation for this production. After taking her 14-year-old daughter to see the performance at QPAC in 2022, Fourteen has since been dubbed as one of her all time favourites.

"If you have the capability to bring along high school students, regardless of their subject selections – this performance is for human beings" was the messaging delivered on the day.

If any teachers are interested in more information, please contact Telina directly at [telina.james@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:telina.james@mackay.qld.gov.au)



**PATHWAYS  
FUNDING  
AVAILABLE!**

**Tuesday 30 July, 10.30am & 7.30pm**

**Term 3 Week 4**

**Show duration:** 1 hour 40 minutes (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 14+

**Warnings:** Challenging themes of suicide, sexual identity, simulated violence, drug use, frequent coarse language.

Shannon Molly is a year 9 student at an all-boys rugby-mad Catholic school in regional Queensland, with a secret that no one can ever find out. Shannon is gay.

Based on the best-selling memoir by award-winning journalist Shannon Molloy, Fourteen is the inspirational true story of growing up gay in Central Queensland, transformed into a powerful must-see theatre production by nationally acclaimed Shake & Stir Theatre Co.

**Drama:** As a Verbatim Ensemble piece adapted by Shannon Molloy's autobiographical novel, Fourteen is an exciting example of Australian Contemporary Performance, using a hybridity of Epic, Magical Realism, Transformative, Visual and Physical Theatre.

**English and Literature:** Exploring a year in the life of Molloy, this episodic memoir provides a narrative of Australian personal experience, using 1st person description to explore themes of belonging, identity and coming-of-age. Useful as comparison of text to stage adaptation or able to be compared with texts of similar themes.

# TERM ONE EDUCATOR'S NEWS



## FROM CAMPFIRE TO STAGE LIGHT

*An epic journey toward self-determination & Indigenous pride!*

**Wednesday 3 July, 7.30pm**

**School Holidays**

**Show duration:** 1 hour 15 minutes (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 13+

**Warnings:** Includes scenes that depict images of Indigenous Australians who have passed away.

Born in 1962 in Cairns, the son and grandson of a stolen generation, in an era when Indigenous peoples of Australia were not legally recognised as citizens, David Hudson begins life simply, in a society that at best ignores his existence, at worst actively discriminates against him.

At a young age his mother, Esme, a Western Yalanji woman, takes David to live on his father's traditional country, the lands of the Ewamian people. There he's guided by the Elders in cultural knowledge and given his cultural name, Bindi, meaning 'look forward'. He embarks upon the world adventure with this new name and a new mission- to bring the culture of his people out of the campfire light and into the global spotlight.

From Campfire to Stage Light is an epic journey toward self-determination and Indigenous pride, as told through the life experience of David Bindi Hudson, well-known and loved cultural leader and global ambassador for Indigenous Australia.

This play explores a variety of dramatic languages and can be analysed from a contemporary dramatic perspective, a historical perspective or from a literary English perspective.



# TERM ONE EDUCATOR'S NEWS



## COSTUME DESIGNER AND CINEMATOGRAPHER TAKE HOME BURSARIES

LAST Christmas Baden Day created a Grinch costume, dressed up and visited sick children in hospital.

This budding young actor, playwright, dancer, singer and gymnast has a passion for costume design – in fact, he has his own brand “Baden Day Theatrics and Design”.

Over the last six years he has made more than 50 costumes.

Baden is the MECC’s Jack Sturgeon Bursary recipient for 2024. He was awarded the bursary at a special morning tea today (Wednesday, December 13). Mayor Greg Williamson said Baden was a tremendous example of a young person who was emersed in the performing arts.

“Baden has been a member of Mackay Musical Comedy Players since he was 11 and he has actually written an original work, Rise of Hook, which received two awards at the North Queensland Townsville Festival of One-Act Plays,” Mayor Williamson said.

Also presented with a bursary, for \$3000, at the morning tea was the winner of the 2024 Artspace Mackay Foundation Bursary, Georgia Farlow.

“Georgia is an emerging cinematographer, director and production designer who is determined to bring a fresh approach to storytelling to the screen,” Mayor Williamson said.

“She is currently studying her second year of a Bachelor of Film and Screen Media Production at Griffith University’s Queensland College of Art, Brisbane,” he said.

“Despite still studying, Georgia has almost a dozen production credits in her portfolio and has won seven art awards including the Woollan Mackay Art on Show Award for emerging artists for the last two years.”

Judges for the Artspace Foundation Bursary also awarded a \$1000 Highly Commended prize to Emma Reginato.

Emma is completing her first year of a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Griffith University and aspires to be a secondary art teacher and has moved to Brisbane to pursue studies towards this career.

She is exploring textiles and painting in her emerging arts practice and will use the 2024 bursary prize to purchase art materials for future masterpieces.

The Artspace Mackay Foundation Bursary is a \$3000 bursary for tertiary students currently studying visual or creative arts.

Artspace director Tracey Heathwood said this bursary was geared towards visual arts students looking to take their tertiary study to the next level.

The MECC’s \$1000 bursary, which is named in honour of the co-founder of the Mackay Musical Comedy Players and life-long supporter of the arts, Jack Sturgeon, is for school graduates applying to study performing arts.



# TERM ONE EDUCATOR'S NEWS



## APPLICATIONS CLOSE TERM 1 WEEK 3 MECC YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM!

**INTERESTED IN THE ARTS?  
APPLY TO BE A MECC YOUTH  
AMBASSADOR TODAY!**

**MECC Youth Ambassadors are inspired individuals who are young advocates of the creative arts. Budding drama performers, singers, dancers, sound designers, lighting technicians, curators, producers, or simply attentive audience members are invited to apply to be part of this engaging program. Our YA program is the cultural link between schools and arts performances and productions.**

### CRITERIA

- Enrolled in grade 10-12
- Must have parental permission
- Must be able to attend regular workshops, meetings or training sessions
- Be willing to positively advocate the MECC and its programs and performances, including but not limited to public speaking opportunities
- Have the support of one teacher at your school who will liaise with the MECC Engagement team
- This is a voluntary position

### INCENTIVES

- Free ticket for YA for each performance included in the MECC Schools Entertainment Program
- First access to MECC performing arts workshops
- Work experience opportunities
- Behind the scenes access to performances
- Written reference letter from the MECC Manager (on successful completion of program)

### DUE DATE

**Applications must be received by the 9th February 2024. Please apply by emailing your application to [meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au).**

### NOMINATION QUESTIONS - MUST BE ANSWERED

Nominating students MUST respond to the following questions as part of the evaluation for the position of MECC Youth Ambassador.

**Please respond in full sentences, in your own writing, and on a separate page which you will attached to this application.**

- Why do you want to be a MECC Youth Ambassador in 2024?
- How would you act as an advocate for the MECC, informing and promoting MECC events and opportunities to your peers and wider school community?
- Why is the MECC an important and integral part of the community?
- Are you an active social media participant?
- Do you have access to reliable transport in order to attend MECC events?
- Are you open to experiencing a range of events at MECC and committing to participating in the program regularly and enthusiastically?

### CHECKLIST - PLEASE ENSURE THE FOLLOWING IS SUBMITTED AS PART OF YOUR APPLICATION

Completed nomination form with signatures

Nomination questions on separate page

### PRIVACY STATEMENT

You are providing personal information which will be used for the purpose of delivering services and carrying out council business. Your personal information is handled in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2009 and will be accessed by persons who have been authorised to do so. Your information will not be given to any other person or agency unless you have given us permission or the disclosure is required by law.

If you have any questions regarding the 2024 MECC Youth Ambassador Program or your application, please call the MECC Engagement team on 4961 9767.

# TERM ONE EDUCATOR'S NEWS



START THE YEAR RIGHT! WIN A COFFEE DELIVERY FOR YOU & THE CREW!



The best fuel to keep you going at the beginning of a new school year? COFFEE!

This term we're giving one lucky teacher the opportunity to treat their teaching buddies to a coffee delivery, compliments of the MECC. For your chance to win a yummy drink delivery of 10 x hot or cold drinks, right to your staff room - simply caption this image, and send your caption to [meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au)

Winner will be drawn at random and be contacted on Friday 1 March, to place their order for their specified date and time. One caption = One entry. Yes, you may enter multiple times!



## JET GROUP MACKAY SPORT AND REC EXPO

**Sunday 11 February  
MECC Plenary Halls  
9am to 1pm**

The JET Group Mackay Sport and Rec Expo is a free, sport and recreation sign-on event and will have 100+ sport and recreation booths on display at the MECC.

There will also be a range of active zone demonstrations on the day, heaps of prizes up for grabs and a number of local sporting heroes on hand for an autograph.

Please note there will be a quiet hour from 9am -10am, a relaxed session, suitable for anyone who would benefit from a calmer environment. There is a relaxed attitude to noise, doors remain open and lights are dimmed.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE...

Teacher friends have this special power where we can communicate with each other using only our eyes.  
@studentsaywhat

**Sadly I do my best proofreading after I hit send.**



PSA: Don't EVER let your printer know that you've waited until the last minute to print something out and you're in a hurry because they can sense fear.

# TERM ONE EDUCATOR'S NEWS



*DBCT Kids' Theatre Season*

## YOU ARE A DOUGHNUT

*"In short, this is the strangest biology lesson you're ever likely to take part in..."*

You Are a Doughnut is a biological-musical-comedy inspired by the traditions of vaudeville and music hall. In this show, two biology teachers take audiences on a fantastic voyage through the human digestive system - pairing each brilliantly intriguing organ with a hilarious (and sometimes gross-tacular sketch, song or science demonstration).

In short, this is the strangest biology lesson you're ever likely to take part in..



**Friday 12 July, 9.30am and 12.30pm**

**Term 3, Week 1**

**Show duration:** 60 minutes (no interval) + 10 minute

Q&A session

**Recommended age:** 5-12 and their families

**Warnings:** Some loud noises and haze effects



### DBCT Kids' Theatre Season Monkey Baa Theatre Company The Peasant Prince

**Monday 10 June, 6pm**

**Tuesday 11 June, 9.30am and 12.30pm**

**Term 2, Week 9**

**Show duration:** 60 minutes (no interval)

**Recommended age:** 7-12

**Warnings:** Please note that the production contains themes of racism and simulated violence



Monkey Baa is thrilled to announce the return of its award-winning production The Peasant Prince in 2024.

The children's version of Li Cunxin's iconic autobiography, Mao's Last Dancer, The Peasant Prince is the remarkable true story of a 10-year-old peasant boy's journey from impoverished rural China to the international dance scene. This is a story of courage, resilience and unwavering hope.

*"You have your secret dreams. Follow them. Make them come true." From The Peasant Prince by Li Cunxin*