



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

As we see ourselves through the final days of 2025, we can't help but celebrate the incredible success of our international program this year!

76 International students joined us at Miami from countries around the world, including Japan, Germany, Czech Republic, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Vietnam, Russian Federation, Austria, and Brazil.

## Highlights of the Year;

**Island Adventures:** Trips to Tangalooma, K'gari, and Lady Elliot Island.

**City Exploration:** A cultural journey to Melbourne.

**Academic Connections & Global Networking:** Meet-and-greet sessions at top universities & inspiring conversations with international alumni.

**Aussie Lifestyle:** Fun-filled surfing lessons on our beautiful beaches.

These experiences have enriched our school community and strengthened global friendships. Thank you to everyone who made this year unforgettable!

Here's to another year of learning, adventure, and cultural exchange!



Over the past 2.5 years, our graduates **Mao Ozawa & Kokomi Kitano** have shared countless experiences and created lasting memories. They began their journey as reserved middle schoolers and have grown into confident young adults, ready to take on the world. From celebrating at the formal to receiving offers from their chosen universities, these students have shown resilience, determination, and a commitment to excellence. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and excited to see what the future holds for them!

## Learn more about Mao and her Graduate experience:

<https://eqi.com.au/why-queensland/student-success-stories/mao-from-japan>

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### International Alumni

At the beginning of Term 3, Miami SHS welcomed two international alumni who shared their experiences transitioning from high school to university life on the Gold Coast. These former students offered valuable insights and practical tips on applying for further education in Australia. Their stories provided encouragement and guidance to new international students as they begin their journey and adjust to life in a new country.

### Bond Uni Welcome

Bond University warmly welcomes international students in terms 1 and 3, with a special event that celebrates their arrival to the Gold Coast and global connections. Students hear inspiring stories from current exchange students in the EQI program and from Bond University. They also have the chance to meet and interact with other international students from different schools in the region. It's a vibrant start to their journey, fostering friendships and cultural exchange.



### Indigenous Teachings

Our English for International Student's class attended an Indigenous incursion with our school based Indigenous Teacher and Ranger Ben. We learned about Indigenous symbols, conservation, bush medicine and painted our own boomerangs. Ranger Ben shared his love of indigenous wildlife, especially bees and gave our boys a didgeridoo lesson. Students entered the school yarning circle respectfully and cared for country by planting some Indigenous grass.



Viola

### International Sports and Recreation

As part of the International Sport & Recreation program, students embarked on an unforgettable excursion to the stunning waters of Julian Rocks in Byron Bay. They were amazed by the incredible marine life, spotting graceful manta rays and unique wobbegong sharks beneath the waves. The day kicked off with an exciting beach entry boat ride, setting the tone for an adventure to remember. To finish, students visited the iconic Byron Bay Lighthouse, the easternmost point of Australia, where they even caught glimpses of whales in the distance!

- Mrs Courtney Failes, Sport and Recreation for Internationals Teacher

### Surfing Excellence

2 international students; Kekoa and Viola have been part of the Surfing Excellence Program and have had an incredible year as part of the. Kekoa played a vital role in our team's success at the Australian Interschool Surfing Championships and thoroughly enjoyed exploring Surfing Australia's High-Performance Centre. Both Kekoa and Viola have also taken their training to the next level by joining additional sessions with our external coach, Mark Richardson. Through these sessions, they've connected with other surfers across the Gold Coast and even had the opportunity to train alongside professional athletes, a fantastic experience that continues to inspire their growth and development in and out of the water.

- Mr Jakob Dolan, Surf Excellence Teacher



Kekoa

### Tennis Excellence

International students in Tennis Excellence have been learning about Athlete Development and Recovery. Students have been completing High Performance Tennis Training two mornings before school with external coaches to improve their skills and match play. In class they are also working with Momentum Sports Performance to complete the Strength and Conditioning Program where testing occurs at the start and end of each term. This term students also had the privilege to attend Thunderbird Park to complete the High Ropes Course and Zipline along with a fun game of laser tag.

- Mrs Courtney Failes, Tennis Excellence Coordinator





### Indigenous Inspired High Tea

In Term 3 our Year 11 Hospitality students treated our international students to a unique Indigenous-inspired high tea! The menu featured delicious creations using native Australian ingredients like lemon myrtle, wattle seed, and kangaroo. It was a wonderful way to share a taste of the first nation's indigenous culture and connect over great food and conversation.

### K'Gari – Fraser Island

The international students' trip to K'gari was an unforgettable adventure filled with natural wonders. They enjoyed a whale-watching tour, were greeted by wild dingoes roaming freely, and explored lush rainforests teeming with unique flora and fauna. The journey showcased spectacular landscapes and ended with sunsets that painted the sky in vibrant colors, leaving everyone in awe.



### Tangalooma Island

In October, our students enjoyed a two-night escape to Tangalooma, Moreton Bay Island, filled with adventure and stunning island views. The group explored trails on quad bikes, snorkelled among vibrant marine life, and experienced the thrill of sand tobogganing down towering dunes. Evenings were just as memorable, with breathtaking sunsets over the bay and the chance to feed wild dolphins, a truly unique experience. It was the perfect mix of excitement and relaxation, making this trip one to remember.

