Nowra Public School
Mathematics In Indigenous Context
Background Information

◆ Focus on two classes one of each, ES1 and Stage 1.
◆ Stage 1 class of 21 students.
◆ ES1 class of 20 students.
◆ 8 Aboriginal students involved in the project.
◆ Nowra Public School’s Corporate Program has implemented the use of the ‘NSW Targeting Maths’ Text book in Stage 1, 2 and 3.
◆ 1 of the 2 participating teachers has attended Count Me In courses.
◆ Minimal parent involvement within classrooms due to a variety of reasons (young children, working or lack of transport).
Quality Teaching Indigenous Project

- Embedding local cultural knowledge into the school scope and sequence.
- Whole school workshops with community.
  - AEA (Ruth Simms)
  - Academic Advisor (Joanne Buckskin)
  - Quality Teacher Consultant (Michelle Brook)
Starting Point

- Meeting with parents.
  - Reflecting on their mathematical experiences.

“Everything’s to do with Maths these days”. 
A total of 10 students from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal backgrounds were assessed.
AEA Role

- Provided a link with community and school.
- Member of M.i.I.C team.
- Team teaching.
Strategies to work with community

- Aimed to build on relationships.
- Developed peer partnership in learning.
Language and Mathematics

- Building on home language.
- Model correct terminology.
- Mathematical Word walls.
- Monitoring student language use.
- Mathematical Big Books
Classroom Strategies

◆ Count Me In Games.
More Classroom Strategies

- Peer Maths groups (buddies).
Our Achievements

- Change in teaching of mathematical language.
- Peer Mathematics Groups.
- Improved relationships with the community.
SENA Comparison

- Numeral
- Forward
- Backward
- Subitising
- Arithmetical

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Graphs showing comparisons for different categories and numerals.
Where to next?

- Sharing our findings with staff.
  - Maths workshops during buddies.
- Look toward to a whole school approach using Count Me In framework.
- Moving away from planning to cover content, towards planning for what students need based on achievement.
- Kinder Transition Program.