By Ainsleigh Sheridan

BRAVO, Zac Moran, and Encore!

The Board of Studies overseeing Higher School Certificate exams has shortlisted the Year 12 Oxley College student for a showcase of musical excellence.

To be shortlisted for Encore “was my goal from the start,” Zac said. “Even though I knew there was a high chance I wouldn’t get it because a lot of people don’t.”

Oxley College arts department head teacher Rob Hughes said Zac’s nomination as “top talent” from this year’s HSC cohort was “a great thing” and “well-deserved”.

“We celebrate the nomination because by the time the Board of Studies have worked through [the shortlist] for a two-hour concert, you’re lucky if you end up on stage,” he said.

Encore strives to equally represent students from public/private and metro/country schools, so that’s why we celebrate the nomination: it just means he did very well.

Zac impressed his HSC examiners with a performance repertoire of four solo pieces on guitar, all in a style called finger-picking, and all arranged by Australian artists.

He took guidance from Mr Hughes in selecting the pieces, who said his approach was to encourage students to push themselves to the limit, but certainly not to breaking point.

What the examiners look for in a performance is technical excellence, so the candidates really have to push themselves to demonstrate that in a small window of time,” Mr Hughes said.

“What you don’t want is a repertoire that is too difficult that you never fully realise, nor present something that is too safe, because the examiners won’t see your capability.”

“Zac has performed a lot in his time and it has always been well received because he is accomplished. So that has been my challenge, to try to get more out of those performances.”

“Music has always been a release for me,” Zac said. “To have it this year count towards my HSC marks has been exciting and enjoyable, and Encore was a driver, an incentive. I’ll always play the guitar and music, I know, will always be a part of my life. Whether it is something I will pursue professionally, I am not sure yet.”

Zac will soon be quite sure whether he’s made the stage for Encore.

>> See a snippet of Zac’s rehearsal at an Oxley concert earlier this year online at southernhighlandnews.com.au

By Ms Southwell in Glenquarry Public School.

Mr Southwell said the Aboriginal Culture Day had been made possible with support from Wingecarribee Shire Council.

“It’s been a great collaborative effort and the day aims to raise awareness of the Aboriginal culture,” he said.

“It’s a chance for students to appreciate and respect the culture as they get older. These days are also important to ensure the interactions of students between other schools.”

The Aboriginal Culture Day will start at 10am on Friday at Glenquarry Public School.

>> For more information, call the school on 4887 1205.

By Josh Bartlett

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Students will learn about native plants, take part in traditional Indigenous games, undertaking art workshops and hear Dreamtime stories.

School principal Jad Southwell said Friday’s event was open for students from Kindergarten to Year 6.

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Play it again, Zac

Oxley College student Zac Moran with arts head teacher and mentor Rob Hughes. Photo Ainsleigh Sheridan

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