



**MATTHEW  
FLINDERS**  
Anglican College

# The Story of the Flinders Beast

*Written by Anthony Vincent, Principal (1999 - 2013)*

The Beast is a symbol of Flinderians at their best.  
It is an idea that is brought to life by great actions.  
When we are at our best, we bring the Beast to life.

The connection between the Flinders Beast and Matthew Flinders Anglican College draws from the numerous sightings of a thylacine (Tasmanian tiger) in the Sunshine Coast area, particularly Buderim, since the 1920s until present times. The Beast was even spotted on our Flinders campus in the early years of the College's existence! History tells us that the thylacine was exterminated by the guns of early Tasmanian settlers more than a century ago.

For some, there is an abiding belief that this animal is NOT extinct; that it in fact lives on in the forest areas of Buderim. The 'spirit' of this animal has become intertwined with the mythology of achievement at Flinders. When we achieve, we resurrect the Beast – we breathe life into the past wonder and create a present wonder: the Flinders Beast!

At Flinders we value all of creation.

Because when we cease to care for and value any one being, then we diminish all of creation – we diminish ourselves. The thylacine is a symbol and a reminder of what we've lost – through our carelessness, our thoughtlessness, our self-interest and greed; through our inability to protect and support the least powerful among us.

When we Flinderians perform at our best, we right the wrong. We metaphorically bring the Beast back to life.

We use the story of the Flinders Beast to inspire us to be strong enough to care for others in our midst, to reject bullies, to refuse to be dismissed by critics, to resist being discouraged by tough challenges, to strive to find an inner strength and to be the best we can be.

As a civilised community, we draw on our past for meaning. The extinction of the thylacine is a constant reminder to us of the mistakes of the past and our need to be vigilant to ensure that we don't repeat such mistakes in the future.

To retain the mantle of the Beast we need to evolve a particular synergy of brain and brawn and demonstrate this through our achievements across the many different activities on offer at Flinders.

We need to display the energy of the Beast in being doers, as well as thinkers and carers.

The Flinders Beast resides in the quiet places of our forest and in the quiet places of our minds.

To commune with the Beast we need to reflect

To take that deep breath

Of the forest air

And sense the power

Feel the influence

Of being a Flinderian

A single thread in a rich tapestry

Of ongoing success.

**The spirit of our Beast inspires us to accept the challenge of taking Flinders yet further...**



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# College War Cry

Ai tiki tunga (leader sounds)

Ai tiki tunga (team responds)

Willy willy oscar (leader)

Willy willy oscar (team)

Oo O Lay, O Lay Flinders (leader)

Oo O Lay, O Lay Flinders (team)

Ai tiki tunga (leader sounds)

Ai tiki tunga (team responds)

Willy willy oscar (leader)

Willy willy oscar (team)

Oo O Lay, O Lay Flinders (leader)

Oo O Lay, O Lay (team)

FLINDERS! (all)

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