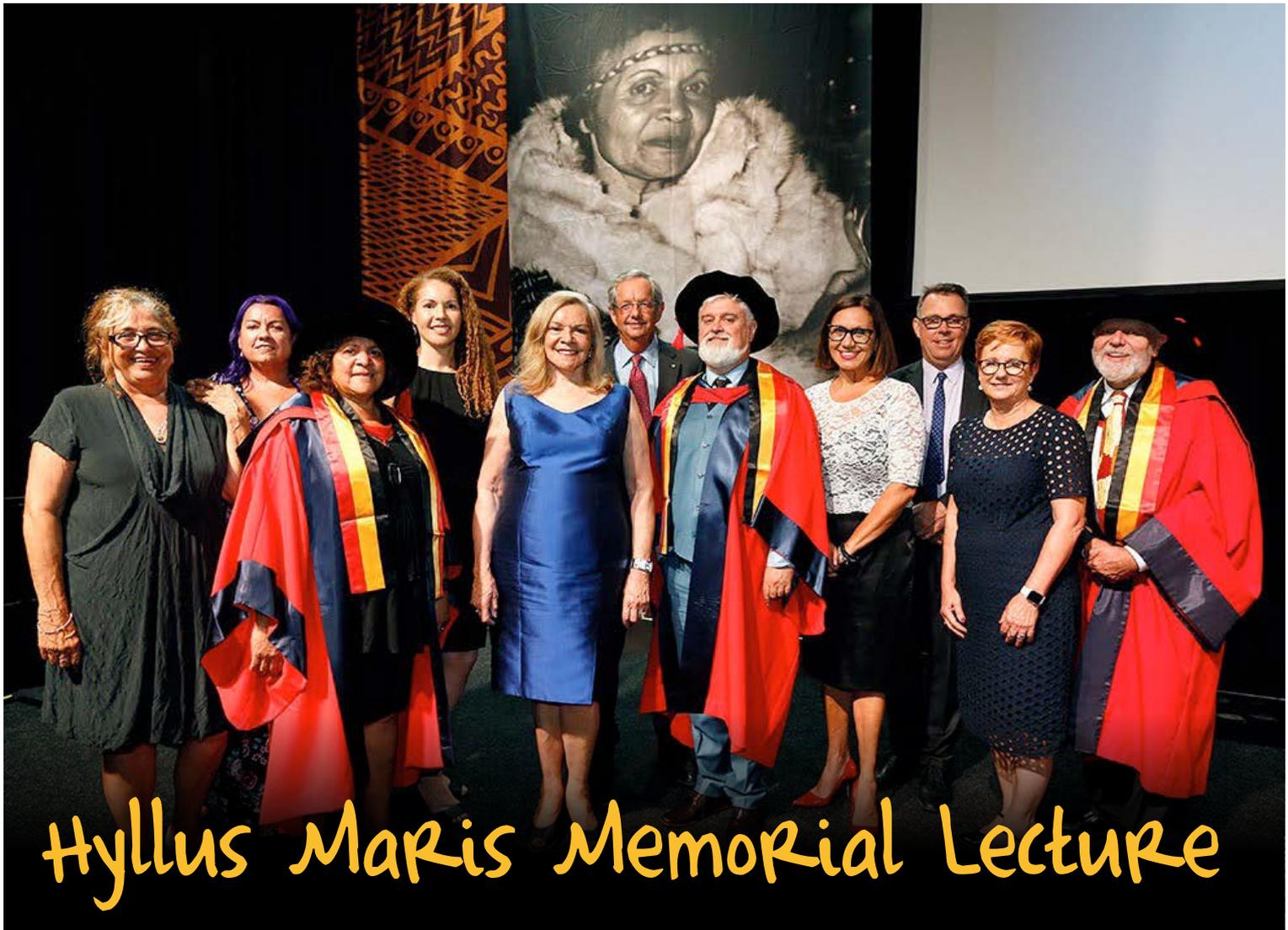




NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2017

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



A historic lecture commemorating the work of Aboriginal Visionary and Worawa Aboriginal College Founder, Hyllus Maris was relaunched at La Trobe University to coincide with International Women's Day on Wednesday, 8 March. The Hyllus Maris Memorial Lecture was initially established in 1999 in honour of the Yorta Yorta woman, writer and poet, whose achievements in education include the establishment in 1983 of Victoria's first and only Aboriginal school, Worawa Aboriginal College.

Professor Mark Rose, Executive Director of Indigenous Strategy and Education at La Trobe University said the lecture was a key event as part of La Trobe's 50th Anniversary celebrations. He stated, "This lecture is not only a celebration of this incredible woman's life, but the impact of education in the lives of Indigenous people."

A true celebration, the Hyllus Maris Memorial Lecture commenced with a procession of Worawa Aboriginal College students as they recited the poem written by Hyllus Maris 'Spiritual Song of the Aborigine'. This was followed by a procession of more than thirty Indigenous academics, led into the auditorium to the haunting sound of the didgeridoo played by Robert Bamblett.

The Keynote address was given by Wiradjuri author Dr Anita Heiss who stated, "...by remembering Hyllus Maris we are also reminded that when we teach Aboriginal children to be strong in identity, to know their history and give them an education, we are giving them, as Hyllus said, the tools they need to not just survive but thrive in mainstream society."

Hyllus Maris Memorial Lecture

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The Lecture was strongly supported by Hyllus Maris' family clan. Event organiser was her niece Tanya Peeler, her niece Dr Julie Andrews delivered to the audience 'The Journey of Hyllus Maris' and Hyllus' sister, Lois Peeler AM emceed the event. In line with the celebratory nature of the event, there were a number of musical tributes presented

by Lillee Walker, Aquinas College Soul Sisters, Yorta Yorta artist and 2016 X Factor winner, Isaiah Firebrace who was accompanied by Yorta Yorta guitar virtuoso Nathaniel Andrew. Hyllus Maris' legacy lives on in the work undertaken at Worawa Aboriginal College.



SCIENCE

This term in science the students started out by learning some basic Laboratory skills and Laboratory safety. All students learnt how to safely light a Bunsen Burner and learnt the names of a range of equipment used in science such as Test tubes, Beakers, Measuring Cylinders, Conical flasks and how to use this equipment to perform experiments.

The next topic after covering Laboratory safety was to look at some basic chemistry and where it is used in our lives. The range of topics included atoms, elements, mixtures

and solutions, separation techniques for separating mixtures, the periodic table, the chemistry of cooking and the chemistry of fireworks.

The students especially enjoyed the hands on aspects of chemistry of cooking and the chemistry of fireworks.

The University of Melbourne continued its collaboration with Worawa College and this year will be working with the Cumbungi group of students. This term they disassembled a desktop computer to look at the layout and function of each of the parts, they also created a number of animations using the "Alice" program. Using Alice the students

learnt how to use basic programming ideas and code to program the animations to move around the screen.

The Cumbungi group also recently visited the University of Melbourne to see the campus and to investigate some of the potential courses, topics and resources that are available to them if they decided that Computer Science was what they want to study in the future. The girls looked at Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, technology used in Optometry and the Server room that stores all of the University of Melbourne data. The highlight of the day was trying the Virtual Reality setup that the university had.

MATHEMATICS

This term, students applied their Mathematics skills in financial matters. Students learnt the difference between wants and needs, and choosing a suitable mobile phone plan to meet various usage patterns. Students covered the concept of total purchase cost, specifically where attractive low upfront costs were used to hide additional costs.

Continuing in the perspective of consumers, students learnt how to read and interpret bank and credit card statements. We covered percentage, and used that knowledge to calculate GST on purchases. Students learnt another application of percentage in calculating interest on savings and loans.

Putting students in the place of a business owner, students covered the concept of profit and loss, and the calculating these. Scenarios included component costs which added to the total cost, and how the selling price is affected by a required profit margin.

A highlight in the term was a talk given by ASIC's Indigenous Outreach Program. The presentation covered practical aspects of financial management. Topics included budgeting, making reasonable purchases, the cost of renting and saving to meet financial needs.

This term of Mathematics has been very important and practical for students, learning about financial management from the perspectives of consumer and business owner.

SPORT

In an exciting finish to the season the Worawa Hawks defeated Maroondah Magic 31 by 5 points, the final score was 31 to 26. At half time the Hawks were 10 points down. The Hawks were matching the opposition play by play, but weren't converting their scoring shots to points. In the second half the Hawks turned it around with Breanna

Wilfred shooting 2 amazing 3's, and the Hawks team endeavour to work hard for one another paid off as they hit the front. The game was played in good spirit and good sportsmanship was displayed by both teams. Coach Andrew Ermel proved to be very good with instruction and encouraging the Hawks throughout the game.



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ENGLISH/LITERACY

We are very lucky to have Jess Gannaway, our EAL/D specialist, working with all the girls to gather new and detailed data about reading, writing and comprehension levels. This means that we have been able to continue to tailor class and individual tasks for improved progress in all areas. Murnong girls (Green group) have focussed on reading skills and work together each week to compose letters to send home.

Baggup (Black) and Polango (Red) have written some very entertaining personal narratives. Cumngi (Yellow) have worked aptricialy hard on grammar, as well as producing some excellent narratives and personal stories.

Kombadik (Blue) are beginning a detailed study of the novel *The Barrumbi Kids* (about a community somewhat like Beswick) in preparation for working with the senior students of Badger Creek Primary School on a range of activities, sharing writing and discussions face-to-face and hopefully through computer links.

Everyone was entranced and inspired by our recent guest, Kutcha Edwards, who told stories both funny and moving and gave many words of wisdom and ideas for writing to develop for our next Anthology (collection) of student writing.

Students are welcome to borrow books from the Library at any time, and to make suggestions for new books to purchase – there will be a number of new books and collections available for the students' enjoyment at the start of Term 2.

ASSESSMENT

All students have now been tested using PAT Reading and PAT Maths. These two tests are complementary with testing in schools in the Northern Territory, so students know the test format and therefore gives a more accurate picture of the level of attainment. Using this data, each students has a plan to improve in English and Mathematics. Teachers will use these individual



SUSTAINABILITY AT WORAWA

Worawa is commencing its journey towards officially becoming a ResourceSmart School. This program in Victoria allows schools to focus on 5 modules surrounding Energy, Water, Waste and Biodiversity. In the first module we create a baseline to see what our resource usage has been for the last 12 months and then work on strategies to reduce our usage and monitor it continuously. Community groups, School Staff and Students will work together on this in the coming years to allow the school to gain 5-Star Accreditation. For more information about this program see <http://www.resourcesmartschools.vic.gov.au/about/>

During the week each class group has a session titled "Caring for Country". This allows students to take some time out of the curriculum classes and focus on applied learning about the Environment and Conservation. Each class group takes a focus about rethinking, reusing and recycling across common household materials as well as the revegetation of the school site.

Our Cadet Ranger Program is ready to go into term 2 with several projects developing interest as well as our Work Program starting up at Healesville Sanctuary. Our ranger projects include native bee keeping, wildlife rescue, investigating tiny houses, enterprise development and revegetation. We will connect with the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater group in alternate weeks to our Sanctuary time and helping this local organisation continue to create habitats for our endangered bird emblem.

strategies in class. At the end of semester one, students will be tested again to see the level of improvement and to review the individual learning plans. NAPLAN testing takes place at the beginning of May. Year 7 and 9 students will be preparing for these tests next term. Results will be forwarded to parents/carers in September.

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NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TRAINING ACADEMY AND ULURU

On the 23rd of March this year 6 students and 2 staff made the journey from Healesville to Voyagers Ayers Rock Resort at Yulara in the Northern Territory to experience the amazing facilities, programs and staff at the National Indigenous Training Academy (NITA).

This academy provides traineeships in the areas of retail, hospitality and horticulture to young Indigenous people aged 18-25 but also has a Taster program for year 9 and 10 students. The training is provided by Charles Darwin University and William Angliss Institute. NITA provides accommodation for trainees who gain a Certificate II or III qualification through classes and on the job training all while getting paid a wage.

We stayed at the lovely Outback Pioneer Resort while we were there and this resort is staffed by Aboriginal employees many who have been through the training program at NITA. It was an amazing experience made all the better because of the kindness and generosity of staff and in particular Mr Mick Coombes who is the General Manager at NITA. Mick showed us the sites including Uluru and Field of Lights and arranged

for cultural presentations and talks with the Anangu traditional owners.

Worawa students and staff enjoyed the trip immensely and some are interested in exploring the potential for pursuing careers and training through NITA in the near future. The partnership between NITA and Worawa will make this transition to employment all the easier for our students.



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ENSEMBLE

Last year the College was fortunate to be the pilot school for a new activity combining music, art and dance presented by the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

They were also special guest performers at Presentation Day, a highlight being a string arrangement of Yothu Yindi's 'Dots on the Shells' to accompany our Elcho Island dancers.

This term, the ACO and the senior girls combined to create an amazing soundscape set to the words of our school poem. The students and

orchestra members worked together selecting different ways of making sounds to represent and enhance the words of the poem, such as paper rustling for the pouring rain, vocal sounds to echo the wind and a lone dingo howling in the desert.

Body percussion and other sounds were gradually put together and the

final piece was performed in concert for the whole school. The orchestra members and the girls had a great deal of fun challenging themselves and sharing stories and culture as their creation unfolded. We are extremely fortunate to have the ACO as regular visitors and look forward to our next adventure with them, on their return later this year.

PERFORMING ARTS

The students in the Performing Arts Academy, along with other talented and dedicated students throughout the school, have had a number of wonderful opportunities during Term 1. A small group were able to go into Melbourne to see the premiere film screening of Deborah Cheetham's opera Pecan Summer, which was a fantastic experience. The opera itself is the very moving story of Deborah's own life and that of her family and people, and the film was followed by a very interesting Question and Answer session with Deborah and several of the key team members involved in the production.

Aunty Lorraine Williams worked for many weeks, preparing a specialist group of girls to develop the dance that led the opening of the Hyllus Maris Memorial Lecture at La Trobe University. This special occasion celebrated

the amazing achievements of the founder of Worawa and the 50th birthday of the University, and fittingly was presented on International Women's Day. The girls were stunning representatives of the College in every way. A highlight of Culture Day was a fabulous dance performance by Cumbungi class as a surprise for Aunty Lois, a tribute to The Sapphires.

Footsteps Dance teachers/choreographers, Stephani and Michelle, ran workshops in hip hop and choreography, and then created and taught the special dance. The girls rehearsed in their own time, as well as in class, and performed very professionally. The experiences of creating, rehearsing and performing are important steps as we will be spending all of next term preparing our own story dance performance for the nation-wide Wakakirri competition, which will be a new and exciting experience for all the students.

