



NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 2017

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Reconciliation Sports Carnival

There was a lot of activity in sports during Term Two with the major event being the Reconciliation Sports Carnival. Held on the 23rd of May, it turned out to be a fantastic day. The weather held up nicely, with only a sprinkling of rain. The rest of the day provided ideal conditions for the football and netball tournaments.

There were four teams competing in the AFL game this year, with all female teams: Worawa, MLC, Upper Yarra Secondary College and Mount Lilydale Mercy College. After three outstanding games, MLC took out the Louisa Briggs Memorial Shield for the second year in a row and Mimi

Hill, from MLC, won Best on Ground. An all-female umpire team made it a special day to showcase female talent in AFL football.

The netball tournament involved 12 schools with one school, Pymble Ladies College, coming all the way

from Sydney. The games were played at a fast pace with Mt. Lilydale coming out on top, over Healesville High School, to take away the Naomi Atkinson Memorial Trophy.

As well as the outstanding team performances being played there

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were many other activities going on. The Longest Kick and Basketball Shooting Competition, Traditional Indigenous games, face painting, Melbourne Stars Cricket games, Music from Ruckus and Coloured Stone, and plenty of chances to display dance moves with popular DJ Congo, playing dance hits throughout the day. There were plenty

of special guests to support the day including appearances from female umpire Chelsea Roffey, former AFL players Aaron Davey and David Rodan, Melbourne Vixens Netball, Melbourne Stars Cricket, and basketball star Tenaya Philips. Special thanks to AFL Sportsready, SEDA, AFL Yarra Ranges and AFL Victoria Umpire Academy.



ENGLISH AND HISTORY

An important focus of this term in English and History classes has been studying and celebrating Reconciliation Week and the 50th Anniversary of the historic 1967 Referendum. Classes researched and discussed the message of reconciliation in theory and practice and produced a range of thoughtful and striking posters to display around the school, which were also shared with visitors on Reconciliation Sports

Carnival Day and with several other visiting groups. At Assembly, Aunty Lois explained the background to the 1967 Referendum and why it was (and still is) such an important event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In class, students investigated and reported on stories of the groups and individuals who were prominent in the process leading to the successful 'Yes' vote which brought such change to the Australian Constitution. Cumbungi

group researched the struggles and achievements of Faith Bandler and Lady Jessie Street, two very different and significant women. The students presented mock interviews with the two individuals, demonstrating an understanding and appreciation of the significance of their work. Classes have also been learning about a range of other important figures from the past, presenting their findings in written projects and presentations in front of their peers.

MATHEMATICS

Students studied geometry in Mathematics this term. After mastering the topic of gradients, students applied the knowledge to financial matters, learning about regularly putting money aside as savings, and the long term effects from varying the amounts regularly saved.

Negative gradient was also covered, charting graphs to visualise the effect of using water from a rainwater tank, evaluating how long the water will last and the effect of rain replenishing water in the tank.

Next, shapes were covered. Formulae to calculate area and perimeter were introduced to the students. This knowledge was used in realistic scenarios, where students had to evaluate how many cans of paint were required to paint the area of a certain shape, or the outline of a certain shape.

To round off the topic of geometry, volumes of shapes was taught. Students learnt to calculate capacities of shapes, and used this knowledge in a situation as a chef who has to calculate volumes and quantities when cooking a meal for friends.

Students were up to the task of acquiring new theoretical knowledge. They were even more enthusiastic when they experienced using the knowledge to solve real-life problems.



PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts classes this term have seen the students continue to enjoy new and challenging experiences. Workshops with Footsteps Dance Company have seen some of the students challenging themselves to try several different dance styles, and to experiment with original group choreography. Our visiting Artist in Residence, Nadia, has presented the students with a range of different ideas and dance techniques. They have also worked on planning costumes/props, makeup, photography/filming, and music selection. The students are almost ready to perform a long piece that tells the story of Worawa's founder, Hyllus Maris through her poem, 'Spiritual Song of the Aborigine.' The

dance/story showcases a variety of dance forms, props visual arts, set building, theatrical make-up and costuming. A very exciting piece.

A small and dedicated group of senior students has taken the lead in encouraging focus and effort in rehearsals. These girls have used their own time to work on specific choreography even giving up their free time on the weekend to attend extra rehearsals. The students have been very privileged to attend workshops with a nationally recognised make-up artist, be guided in still and video camera work with our own professional photographer and to work on the soundtrack and recording with a professional sound engineer who has worked widely with many organisations and performers.

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INDIGENOUS WEATHER KNOWLEDGE - BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Staff from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) gave a presentation to students on Indigenous Weather Knowledge. They told students about their visits to consult elders on seasonal weather cycles and to learn how the community functions in different seasons.

Particularly interesting to students was the fact that many communities observe more than four seasons of weather in the annual cycle, and the work the communities engage in during each season. Students learnt that the information gathered by BOM staff is carefully documented, supplemented with pictures, videos and interviews. This work is ongoing, and will include more and more Indigenous communities throughout Australia.

Students were also told about work experience, attachments and career opportunities available at BOM. BOM staff shared their journeys and how they came to work at BOM. Different education and career paths taken by BOM staff showed students how they can chart a career path that leads to fulfilling work at BOM and in other organisations.

At the close of the talk, the speakers encouraged students to study hard, and to combine their Indigenous culture and knowledge with the learning gained at Worawa as they prepared for their future careers.



DELOITTE RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

Worawa is proud to be formally recognised as part of the Deloitte Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). At a formal function held on 7 June, Deloitte announced a renewed emphasis on its Reconciliation Action Plan 'New Horizons' under the revitalised program there is a renewed emphasis on Indigenous engagement across the organisation.



SCIENCE

This term in Science the students looked at the topic of Space. In this topic the students started on earth and then moved further out into space and explored the concepts of rotation and revolution and how they relate to the Earth, Moon and planets. The students also looked at the changing Seasons, Moon Phases and Tides and explored Constellations, Indigenous

astronomy and Indigenous star lore associated with the night sky.

The students were asked to complete an assignment on a constellation of their choosing and researched a number of facts about it, such as the number of stars, how far away the stars are, how to locate that constellation and Indigenous stories for that constellation. Part of their assignment was to track their chosen

constellation across the sky over a number of nights but unfortunately the weather did not cooperate as it was cloudy every night during the assignment period.

Overall the students enjoyed learning about space and were very curious and asked a number of excellent questions about deep space objects such as galaxies, black holes and exoplanets.

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CADET RANGER PROGRAM

The Cadet Ranger Program operates in partnership with the Healesville Sanctuary and continues to provide amazing opportunities for students to learn about wildlife and conservation. The critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater is the bird emblem for Victoria. The Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater volunteers are re-vegetating an area with local species of grasses, plants, shrubs and trees in the hope of recreating the original environment that the birds flourished in.

Our Cadet Ranger team has been working in the nursery created by the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater. The Rangers are learning about commercial plant propagation techniques, how different plants can be created with methods other than seeds and how to gather plants from parks and gardens. The team has planted over 2000 plants this term over a few visits. This will contribute towards their horticulture assessments next term.

The Healesville Sanctuary is the organisation responsible for the breeding program for the birds and we have also been involved with them for our work experience program this term. Currently the number is just about 250 in the wild.

On the most recent visit the Cadet Rangers were introduced to the Sanctuary reptiles.



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WORAWA PRINCIPAL HONOURED

Worawa Principal Lois Peeler AM, was presented with the Doctor of Social Science Honoris Causa by RMIT University. In accepting the doctorate Dr Peeler said "My work and the work of my sister, Hyllus Maris the Founder of Worawa Aboriginal College, was to create transformative experiences to prepare Aboriginal youth for life and work so they may shape their own world. We already held within us, the world's oldest living culture, with all its complexities and meaning. Hyllus knew that we needed our own school so our culture could be held as precious and central to all learning. This was the impetus for my family's passion for our own place, meeting our needs, our own curriculum and our Worawa Way of knowing, doing and being was birthed.

At Worawa there is more going on in school than the goal of tertiary completion. It is also about giving girls the skills and ability to navigate their way through the exceptional challenges of living in remote Australia. Students who go home to community after time at Worawa College will be able to make different decisions, they will go back knowing they have choices that impact their futures. Exposure to new ideas, the opportunity to learn from positive experiences of other Aboriginal girls and experience fields of study through an Aboriginal lens, observing a variety of places, experiencing professions and careers, confirming the uniqueness and preciousness of their own culture – these things will change the course of their lives and the lives of those around them.

The time spent at Worawa or any other institution will create a stronger, steadier platform for any student to stand on. From that stable place, a young person can be more sure of her place in the world and her ability to enter into it. So, formal education is not just a journey, from point A to point B. It is an event that creates change, first within the individual and then within the individual's circle of influence. The ripples go on forever, both creating change in the immediate reality and then, on through generations. It integrates into the human experience and changes the being. It is that person, that student who becomes something quite new, someone who can't unlearn, who will be all she was before, and then some.



LADY EAGLEHAWKS

The 2017 football season has been very exciting. The girls have developed skills and gained confidence throughout the season. Some girls have played for the first time and have surprised the coach with how quickly they pick up rules and game plan.

They have had specialist footy clinics around learning to tackle and handballing. There are seven girls who have completed the first aid and sports trainers' certificate with Sports Medicine Australia. We also have 12 girls complete the level ground and boundary umpires' course with the AFL.

For the Hawthorn Collingwood game at the MCG the Lady Eaglehawks formed a guard of honour for the Hawks.

During the Dreamtime at the G, Sir Doug Nicholls Round 10, the Lady Eaglehawks umpired the Kickstart children at half time in front of a crowd of 90,000 spectators at the MCG.

Four girls from the team were representing lady Eaglehawks at Hawthorn Football Club as they launched their submission to enter the WAFL in 2019. The girls put their gold thumbprint of the submission along with other prominent AFL women players.

As we near the end of the school girls competition with Eastern Districts we will look forward to the indigenous state

girls football try outs again be held at Worawa. The outcome of this activity will be the selection of girls to represent Victoria in an interstate carnival to be played in Queensland. The girls are really looking forward to tryouts which will start in August.



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For more information visit worawa.vic.edu.au