National Reconciliation Week saw the annual Worawa Reconciliation Sports Carnival. On this day our community, partner schools, friends and supporters come together in the true Spirit of Reconciliation. The day commenced with cultural activities. Local band Ruckus set the scene with a rousing rendition of ‘Standing on Sacred Ground’, joined by Aboriginal musicians from the iconic Indigenous bands Coloured Stone and No Fixed Address.

Primary students enjoyed the Indigenous Games which led off the activities. We thank the team from ASHE who travelled from Shepparton to provide this fantastic experience to our participating primary schools.

The day’s competition included a little league football game between Badger Creek and Healesville Primary Schools. It was a great game played with much enthusiasm with boys and girls from both schools participating in the game. The day also included a longest kick competition and a Basketball Shooting Competition.

The main event was the all-girls football competition between the Worawa Lady Eaglehawks and Methodist Ladies College in a game umpired by female members of the AFL Victoria V/Line Umpire Academy Program.
This game saw fierce competition as the first all-female football game in Worawa history, teams vied for the inaugural Louisa Briggs Memorial Shield. Worawa students assisted with responsibilities of field, boundary and goal umpires supported by female on-field coaches and umpire coaches from the Yarra Ranges Umpires Association and AFL Victoria.

After a tightly contested game, Worawa Lady Eaglehawks came out on top by 5 points. Worawa student Melanie Cook was awarded Best on Ground.

Participating schools included Methodist Ladies College, Mount Evelyn Christian School, Upper Yarra Secondary College, Healesville High School, Shelford Girls Grammar, Caulfield Grammar School, Melbourne Grammar School, Worawa, Pymble Ladies College (Sydney), Badger Creek Primary School, Healesville Primary School, Dixon’s Creek Primary School.

Melbourne Grammar boys’ team, who usually play in the football competition, put together a wonderful display of skills when playing in the netball round robin. Shelford and Pymble played in the netball grand final for the Naomi Atkinson Trophy – with Shelford again taking home the trophy.

In the lead up to the Sports Carnival Worawa students had worked hard cooking cakes and gingerbread to sell for fundraising for the Fred Hollows Foundation. They also assisted in the running of the day with food stalls and face painting.

The Louisa Briggs Memorial Shield honours the life of one of the earliest Aboriginal woman activists. Louisa Briggs was a vocal civil rights campaigner, she was appointed a salaried staff member as a dormitory matron and nurse to the children of Coranderrk. Described as “a most resolute woman” Louisa led a rebellion against plans to sell Coranderrk and to relocate its residents and in 1876 gave evidence at an inquiry into the running of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station. She was forced to leave Coranderrk and later settled at Cummeragunja Aboriginal Reserve where she died in 1925.
SPORTS AT WORAWA

Worawa has a proud history of involvement in sport with a number of past graduates involved at the elite level of Australian Rules football. The Worawa AFL Sports Academy was initially launched in 2009 before Worawa changed from co-ed to an all-girls school.

Fuelled by the current focus on women’s involvement in AFL, the College is again engaging with the AFL. The Worawa AFL Sports Academy caters specifically for young Aboriginal women, is based on an integrated Education, Culture and Wellbeing model and operates in an Aboriginal environment.

Australian Rules Football (AFL) forms the foundation ‘sport’ but also includes other team sports including soccer, netball, basketball and softball.

This year we have seen the establishment of the Worawa Lady Eaglehawk football team and establishment of the Worawa AFL Umpiring Diversity Academy. A number of students were involved with umpire training conducted by Russell O’Toole, AFL Victoria Umpiring Development Manager. This training required commitment from the girls to undertake a rigorous training program. On completion participants received an official Umpiring Certificate from the AFL Umpiring Diversity Academy and eight girls were selected to umpire the AusKick game at half time at the ‘Dreamtime at the G’ game between Richmond and Essendon before a crowd of 80,000 enthusiastic fans.

As part of the AFL Female Kickstart/All Nations Pathway Program Worawa will host the AFL Victoria Female Diversity Future Leaders State Camp 10-11 September in the lead up to the National Female Diversity Championships to be held in Shepparton 19-21 September.
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PATHWAYS TO WOMANHOOD

The program focuses on a selected group of up to twelve girls who demonstrate readiness to take up leadership, and provides a series of modules and experiences which broaden their exposure to life-enhancing activities and develop overall life and leadership skills. The approach is one of focused action learning and personal reflection and includes intensive health education, health promotion activities, self-awareness and self-esteem building as well as opportunities to build respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students through contact with our partner schools and through events such as formal and informal dinners sponsored by the Richmond Rotary Club, our Reconciliation Sports Carnival and culminating in ‘Debutante Dreaming’ a fusion of traditional and Western rites of passage for young women.

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SANDRA BARDAS ART GALLERY

Open to the public, the Sandra Bardas Art Gallery is situated on College grounds. The gallery is named in honour of Sandra Bardas OAM who worked with the Founder, Hyllus Maris to establish Victoria’s first and only Aboriginal school.

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Immersed in Aboriginal history and culture, our art gallery provides a unique meeting venue. Our friendly and informative staff are available to assist you to make your meeting event professional and memorable. Our staff can also assist with any enquiries on selection, gift wrapping, packaging and worldwide delivery options.

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THE ARTS

Worawa has a continued commitment to delivering a full and inspiring educational experience that includes a comprehensive Arts program. In each area of the Arts, an Aboriginal perspective is considered to be essential.

The Worawa arts program seeks to support and develop the students understanding and experience of the many traditional Aboriginal arts and crafts while recognising and including the reality of Art itself being both dynamic and evolutionary. As the students learn about their rich heritage they are also encouraged to explore and expand the principles of these art forms, creating new and personally interpreted works that reflect their understanding of heritage, their personal journey and the world they live in.

This year we are delighted to have the Australian Chamber Orchestra work with our students in an adaptation of the ACO Music & Art Program. This project introduced students to classical music while responding through the creation of artworks. The Worawa project includes ACO Inspire Quartet members Peter Clark, Jenny Khafagi, William Clark and Paul Zabrowarny visiting the College to run workshops with small groups of students and performing interactive concerts for all students. We are looking forward to the continuation of the project in semester two which will focus on music and contemporary dance.

Piano students have begun working through individual music books which focus on theory, technical exercises and pieces. The girls have also recently been handed music pieces which they will practice and begin performing towards the end of term 3.

Students were also invited to visit D’addario and Clark Guitars where they were given a guided tour of the facility to show how guitars are made. It is an incredibly meticulous process which enabled students to gain an appreciation of the development process.

Students from North East Arnhem Land celebrate their culture through sharing their traditional dances with the school and broader community. During National Reconciliation Week students Nekisha, Rani, Shevonna, Sylvia, Binda and Rickea performed at a community event at Waverley Park – home of the mighty Hawks.
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SCIENCE

Science at Worawa this term focussed on the topic of “Sustainability”. The term started with a number of guest speakers talking to and educating the girls on how Aboriginal people have been living sustainably on the land for thousands of years.

Community leader, Lorraine Williams was a highlight for the students as she shared her knowledge and experiences as a Ranger and the students shared their knowledge on the traditional use of different plants species. The girls then planted a number of indigenous plants (Warrigal Greens, Swan River Daisy, Casuarina, and non-indigenous plants (Sunflower, Peppermint, Tomato) which they took great pride in taking care of.

The students then moved on to look at a range of topics including renewable and non-renewable resources and how the management of these resources, such as water, affect the environment, animal and plant adaptations. They learned how plants help an animal survive in the environment, how animals form a balance in nature and how the introduction of a species such as rabbits or cane toads will change this balance.

Worawa is implementing a STEM program and we were very pleased to have Melbourne University back at Worawa this term to give students an introduction to writing and coding computer programs. The girls had the opportunity to control and program some robots using the skills that they learnt during the term.

CAREERS AT WORAWA

Work Experience is an essential part of our Careers Curriculum and reinforces the practical application of the Employability Skills framework. Our work experience program enables students to experience working environments and meet people working in industries that they may decide to enter in future. Our thanks to Eastern Health for the opportunity for girls interested in Allied Health to experience a variety of work settings. The Worawa Junior Ranger Program in partnership with Healesville Sanctuary provides a unique opportunity for our students to work with Animal Keepers in caring for wild life and sharing cultural knowledge with visitors to the Sanctuary.