



NEWSLETTER

Worawa Aboriginal College - Term 4, 2012

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

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Student Nika Dumoo and Alliyanna Tipiloura with proud family from Wadeye

Worawa Aboriginal College Presentation Day 2012

Presentation Day at Worawa is always a big celebratory event. However, this year we had so much to celebrate and acknowledge we knew it was going to be a very special day.

The day began with all our guests gathering under the shade of our beautiful gum trees MC Daniel Browning, presenter and producer of *Awaye!*, the Indigenous Art and Culture Program on ABC Radio National welcomed guests to the College and introduced Mr Graham Atkinson, a Director of the Indigenous Land Corporation who officiated at the opening of the Sandra Bardas Creative Arts Centre. Aboriginal Elder Uncle Max Eulo conducted a smoking ceremony to perform a ritual cleansing of the new buildings. This was a significant start to what we envisage will be a very important part of our program growth at Worawa.

Mr Graham Atkinson, assisted by Mr Sean Armistead, Chairman of the

Worawa Board, unveiled a memorial plaque and cut the ribbon to the wonderful new facility to declare the building open. Guests then entered the new centre.

Graduating student, Rose Faulkhead gave a stirring recitation of the School Poem Spiritual Song of the Aborigine, written by the College Founder Hyllus Maris.

We would like to thank Keynote speaker, Professor Kerry Arabena from the School for Indigenous Health at Monash University for her inspiring speech to the students.

We were fortunate to have Yorta Yorta Soprano and Head of the Wilin Centre, Ms. Deborah Cheetham perform. This was a remarkable treat as Deborah's talent is world-renowned. Also from the Wilin Centre, Mr Tiriki Onus sang a fantastic rendition of 'The Impossible Dream' with an ensemble of Worawa students accompanying him. His beautiful voice filled the room and the girls performed very well.

A large contingent of student's family members from a number of Aboriginal communities across Australia were in attendance to acknowledge the

achievement of their child on this special day. As the list of awards and trophies were announced, each recipient strode purposefully to the podium to receive their award. We are very proud of each one of them and their awards were well deserved.

Two girls graduated, Ms. Rose Faulkhead and Ms. Tiffany Kuiper who during their time at Worawa have both worked well and have been great ambassadors for the College. We wish them every success and look forward to hearing about their progress in the years to come.



Graduating student Tiffany Kuiper receives Award from WAC Director Gary Thomas

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Presentation Day 2012 concluded with an opportunity to attend our Art Exhibition in the beautiful new art room which forms part of the Worawa Cultural Hub. Mr Stephen Gaughan has been an amazing art teacher, leading the girls to use traditional methods to create both traditional subject matter and also some highly expressive modern works as well. The girls produced a range of jewellery for the Stylin' Up Project which was also on display.

Guests were also invited to sample a wonderfully creative array of Indigenous foods prepared especially for the day.



Presentation Day visitors view student art work

Yarra Valley Polytechnic

Certificate II in Rural Operations

The inaugural Rural Operations course began in Semester 2 this year. We offered our first three modules from the fifteen-module course and have four students who have successfully completed them. The course is available to students 15 years and over in age and offers training in horticulture, tourism and the maintenance of Aboriginal cultural places.

The polytechnic buildings are almost ready for use in term one and we are excited to have the greenhouse ready for herb production. We are looking forward to opening up the polytechnic to external VET students in the region and offering our students further opportunities to explore their future career pathways in courses.



Polytechnic Greenhouses

Cape Otway Camp

Worawa Polytechnic students studying Certificate II in Rural Operations undertook an excursion to the Otways where they assisted Deakin University staff and second and third year university students who were running field survey of small animals at Bimbi Park. Worawa student, Tiffany Kuiper reported "The next day [after arriving at camp] we met the Deakin University students we were going to work with.



Worawa student Shona Goldstraw observes Chlorinda Schofield, set a camera to a post, which will take pictures of animals at night at Bimbi Park.

Once we got to the place where we set up traps we split into groups. By the end of the day we learned how to set up Elliot traps, and we learned the name of the trees in the area where we set our traps up. The next morning really early we got up to go with the Deakin University students to check the traps, after we checked the traps it was time to pack up and head home. Going on a University led field trip was a unique experience for Worawa students and for the Deakin University students also.

Phillip Island Camp

For the third year in a row, the whole school took off on our annual YMCA Phillip Island camp. This year, the focus was on water activities, which saw the students (and teachers) trying their hand at surfing and body boarding. We were lucky to have beautiful weather for most of the camp and this meant we spent most of our time on the beach or in the water. Surfing is not an easy sport, as many of the students discovered quite quickly. However, most of them were persistent and kept trying until they managed to stand up. A huge achievement!!



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The camp is on Smith's Beach, which has the most amazing rock pools and marine life to explore. The students spent a lot of time doing Marine Discovery and exploring different kinds of sealife.



Delena and Saqel, telling stories in the sand at the recent Phillip Island Camp

Deadly Sista Girlz Netball Program

Throughout this year, Worawa students have been part of the Deadly Sista Girlz Netball Program, run by The David Wirrpanda Foundation. Over the course of the year, the girls have not only learnt the rules and skills required to play netball, they have also been learning interpersonal skills, self-esteem, the dangers of drugs and alcohol and how to be wise with their money. Indigenous basketball player, Kate Malpass and Melbourne Vixens netballer, Sarah Wall have taken the girls through these topics and have



become respected mentors amongst the students.

As a reward this term, The David Wirrpanda Foundation gave every Worawa student a complimentary ticket to watch Australia's best female basketballers in action at Dandenong Stadium. Two students who have been to all of the sessions, working on their own personal growth and proving to be very talented netballers, are Regina Inkamala and Tahlia Campbell. They were rewarded with an invitation to sit on the bench at the women's basketball match.

The Deadly Sista Girlz program will continue next year.

Indoor Rock Climbing

As part of the Sports Academy Program, we aim to provide a range of activities, so that students can experience different styles of strength and aerobic training. This term, partner School, Mt. Evelyn Christian School invited us to come and try out their amazing rock climbing wall. It was a great chance for our students to train the muscles in their upper body in a completely new way. The girls were very excited to be there and were quite impressed by the size of the rock climbing wall.

The activity ran over two consecutive weeks and students were selected based on their good behaviour and level of enthusiasm. All the students participated well with some working exceptionally hard to tackle the more challenging climbs.

We would like to thank Mt. Evelyn Christian School for their hospitality. It was a great opportunity for students from both schools to work together for a common goal. We look forward to sharing more activities together in the future.



Deadly Sister Girlz Netball Program



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Languages Program

In the recently released House of Representatives Standing Committee Report - 'Our Land, Our Languages - Language Learning in Indigenous Communities' it states, 'Indigenous languages are the foundation upon which the capacity to learn, interact and to shape identity is built'. It is with this belief that Worawa College is re-launching the Languages Program in 2013. There will be an emphasis upon language maintenance and first-language literacy work, as well as the development of programs teaching Victorian languages. At the College's recent Parent and Community Forum on December 13, where 28 parents took part in a day of sharing with Worawa staff, all the participants wholeheartedly supported the College's plans for the recognition, valuing and teaching of Aboriginal languages in the College program in 2013. The building of the College's new Languages Centre will commence early in 2013. This will be the learning hub for language classes, as well as a resource room for the collection of language resources currently held/being collected by the College. The College is interested in hearing from community members who may have Victorian languages resources and/or books, dictionaries and language materials from any of the 15+ languages currently spoken by the students at Worawa.



Makira Furber and her mother, Alison Furber and Tina Young and her mother, Leonie Young, who attended the Parent and Community Forum on December 13.

Numeracy Term 4

This term, we studied a range of topics according to the students individual learning profiles. Some of these units included time, indices, rates, algebra, factorising, quadratic functions and quadratic graphs.

With the return of the fine weather, we have also been able to get outdoors more. Numeracy on the basketball court was a hit. The students could shoot goals from three different positions. Each spot scored a different amount of points. The trick was that the girls were not told which spots scored the most, just what their

teams' total score was. Their job was then to work out what each position was worth. With their knowledge of number and simultaneous equations they solved the puzzle.

The students learned about gradient in a unit on graphs. Using this knowledge, they could work out the slope of various hills or mounds around the school property. Their graph work in their books was of an excellent standard, reflecting the careful and neat style in which they work.

Our final outdoor task was to research an indigenous plant and then grow a vegetable from a seed. The girls calculated how many plants would fit in one square meter. They measured how far apart and how deep to plant their chosen seeds. Then the students calculated when their seedlings would emerge and when they would fruit, using a calendar.

We successfully used a new way of teaching times tables for the girls who had not mastered them. The program used is called the Vaughn Cube method and uses visual clues and decoding to memorise the times table facts. All the girls who did the program showed improvement and it was enjoyable as well.



Kammie Goodwin is measuring and marking out 1 square metre for her vegetable garden plot.