



NEWSLETTER

Term 4, 2017

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



Strategic Partnerships at Worawa ensure that the holistic program we deliver remains strong, current and embedded within the greater community. While our excellent educational program, co-curricular activities and beautiful grounds ensure our students are supported and guided towards their best possible future, it is equally important that our courses are founded in the real world. Worawa is intentionally connected to only the very best of strategic organisations, institutions and companies.

Presentation Day, 2017 was a triumph. It is a day where we celebrate the full gamut of our student's achievements. Proud and poised, every student filed past local Elders giving quiet respect as they passed by. Then, on stage they spoke a greeting in Yorta Yorta and presented the College poem, written by our founder, Hyllus Maris. The student body also shared in an Acknowledgement to the Elders of the Country we are on, the Wurundjeri People.

Worawa students enter the College from many communities and with a diverse range of connections to their culture. After a short time, the students learn that at our college, Aboriginal culture is of prime importance and central to all we do. They are strongly encouraged to embrace our diversity and unity and to assist one another to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to walk in two worlds.

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Our Partners create a connection to the wider world that enables this intention. By being in relationship with organisations outside of Worawa, indeed outside of the educational community, we ensure our students are equally well connected and therefore enabled to access a variety of careers and experiences.

Presentation Day 2017 showcased an enviable list of partners and presenters:

- RMIT University
- Deakin University
- University of Melbourne
- CSIRO
- The Holland Foundation
- The Deloitte Foundation
- Malthouse Theatre
- Healesville Sanctuary
- Hawthorn Football Club
- Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts
- RACV Healesville Country Club
- Eastern Health
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Rotary Club of Richmond
- Monash University
- Department of Justice and Regulation, Koori Justice Unit
- Caltex
- AFL Victoria
- Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee, Eastern
- Victoria Police
- Australian Defence Force
- Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development

Our MC was the very talented Yorta Yorta Opera star and Academic, Mr Tiriki Onus. Our Key Note speaker was the highly-esteemed, Dr Jackie Huggins AM. Dr Huggins shared anecdotes from her remarkable life and encouraged the audience to fight for what they know is important and right. She reminded the guests and students to keep going, even when life is difficult. Equally, Student Representative Speaker, Ms. Stephanie Williams reminded the students that even though life can be very difficult, there may be beautiful destinations to be reached if you climb whatever mountain is before you.

Worawa students sang the iconic Yorta Yorta song, Burra Ferra and danced to the beautiful Yolngu, 'Lungurrma' (northeast wind).

A highlight was the formal announcement that the College's registration is now amended to deliver senior secondary through the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). The VCAL provides an alternative for our young women as they journey to adulthood, further studies, work and community engagement in a supportive 'Two-Way' educational environment. The program provides real skills for employment, study and adult life. We are very excited to be offering VCAL in 2018. Our Parent Response Speaker this year, Tiwi Elder, Bernard Tipiloura reminded the audience of his words and call on the College years before. He urged Worawa to offer the senior secondary years of school. He was quite moved to see the fruition of years of work.

Our presentation Day was certainly a day of celebration. Talented artists from the Aboriginal Centre for Performing Arts (ACPA) closed the event with a fabulous rendition of 'Aint No Mountain High Enough' which really emphasised the words of our student speaker Stephanie Williams, about metaphorically climbing mountains and forging ahead to gain your goals.

As 2017 comes to a close, once more we can look back and see how far the College has come. Our students are why we exist and they continue to amaze and inspire us every day. They are resilient, strong and have clear aspirations to 'make a difference'.



YEAR IN REVIEW

During the year students continually engaged in the numerous educational experiences offered at Worawa.

This has included the RISE Camp at University of Melbourne, excursion to the Defence Force, work experience, school exchange visits, community engagement in working with local organisations and primary schools.

The Worawa Academies: Sports, Arts and Ranger Academy, have grown and developed to provide clear pathways into further study and employment. Through the Caring for Country Program, with our partners Healesville Sanctuary and University of Melbourne, students are learning to use technology that, in community ranger programs, is being used to map country, to gain a geographical

view of the landscape and the animals that reside there. Students involved in the Cadet Ranger Program are gaining practical knowledge and hands on experience in conservation and environmental protection through work placements at the Healesville Sanctuary and community conservation groups.

The Creative Arts has flourished, with girls using natural dying techniques to produce stunning silk fabrics for use in fashion design. Underpinning this new venture is the 'protection' of traditional methods including modern techniques, particularly in the design processes. Work placements, through the VCAL program and year 10 work experience combine to give students an opportunity to see different careers, jobs and workplaces.



RISE CAMP

Between Monday 27th November and Saturday 2nd December, Dorothea, Justine, Kyema and Rochelle participated in the Residential Indigenous Science Experience (RISE) camp at Melbourne University. It was a jam-packed week of experiences with the girls exploring the fields of Physiology, Geology, Palaeontology, IT and Bioinformatics, Robotics, Chemistry, Maths, Molecular Biology and Genetics. The camp also included excursions to Melbourne Zoo and other key sights around Melbourne city, St Vincent's Hospital, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and Scienceworks which was opened after hours especially for the camp!

The girls were fantastic representatives for Worawa impressing the camp organisers, volunteers and various science specialists. The girls commented that it was an excellent taster of university life and the camp brought Science out of the classroom and into real life jobs and industries. RISE was also a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded and dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from around Australia and undoubtedly resulted in some life-long friendships. The RISE camp is held every year and 4 more year 9 or 10 Worawa students will have the opportunity to apply and attend in 2018.



WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

This Term, Baggup and Murnong classes learned about the way that language can make an audience feel different emotions, like fear and suspense. This culminated in class workshops where students described things, carefully choosing their language in order to get a particular response from their peers. In their writing, the students focused on building suspense using adjectives, adverbs and descriptive language. They read a suspenseful story about a shark attack and used similar language features to write a short passage intended to frighten their reader.

Students also began studying poetry to explore the way that descriptive language can create a picture in a reader's mind. We began to find interesting ways to describe an animal's body parts using metaphor and simile.

Students have begun setting goals for next year and many have identified gains that they would like to make in their reading and comprehension. To this end, students have utilised classroom time to read at their current level and to check their comprehension by discussing the text with a peer or teacher.



DRONE EXERCISE TEACHES STUDENTS SCIENCE AND NUMERACY

We are proud of our partnership with the University of Melbourne through which we have introduced an exciting direction in learning about and using future technologies.

As part of the Worawa Aboriginal College STEM curriculum, students have learnt how drones can assist Indigenous Rangers across the country in Caring for Country. In an exercise led by researchers from the University of Melbourne's School of Computing and Information Systems (CIS), students have learnt the basics of drones and how they can be used to observe animals over large distances and to identify archaeological targets.

In a lesson aimed at familiarising students with the latest technology in this field, students have engaged in learning through a lesson titled, "In the Future Indigenous Rangers Will Fly Drones,"

Professor Andrew Turpin and Dr Greg Wadley from the University Of Melbourne CIS have been visiting the College on a weekly basis since the partnership commencement of the partnership, designed to build student interest in computer

science, IT, software engineering and information systems. Professor Turpin said students are learning useful skills for their future careers. He said, "We have conducted a range of different activities over the years, from app design and programming in HTML/JavaScript, to investigating phone and PC hardware, programming robots, and composing algorithms".

"Our lesson allowed students to use data science and numeracy skills – watching the live drone monitor to spot and count kangaroos and other wildlife and in evaluating their target designs. The next step will be for students to develop additional content on their smart phones and then create a produce a series of videos demonstrating the historical, cultural and environmental properties in relation to the Worawa land.

Drone technology is fast becoming a key part of many industries including ranger work and the film industry, one of our drone pilots met Johnny Depp while filming the latest Pirates of the Caribbean movie. Drones are even being explored as a potential form of un-manned delivery and for

humanitarian aid drops! Developing skills in cutting edge technology such as drones is vital for the future job market and will place the Worawa girls a step ahead of the rest as they transition into further education and their future careers.

Worawa Principal, Dr Lois Peeler AM, said the focus on practical skills that they can take back to their community is a key objective of the program. "I've worked closely with Andrew and Greg to ensure the content reflects skills that are meaningful, engaging and present potential pathways for our young Aboriginal women", she said.

"Our students come to us from all over Australia so we want to give them a unique learning experience that includes the development of practical skills in contemporary Australia."

In addition to the STEM project, Worawa students undertake a number of visits to the University of Melbourne Parkville campus where they tap into exceptional learning opportunities through programs such as the Drone Program and similar programs.

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PYMBLE LADIES COLLEGE STUDENT EXCHANGE

As part of an annual student exchange, 4 Worawa students and 5 Pymble students in year 8 participated in this 9 day event. Each student was partnered with a student from the other school and it was Pymble students turn to come to stay at Worawa first.

Pymble students and their teacher participated in a Culture Day, City Experience, went to Lilydale Show and participated in a cultural event at Worawa's partner organisation Deloitte Australia. It was then Worawa's turn to head to Pymble. After navigating self-check-in, Worawa students and their teacher were on their way to Sydney and an experience of a lifetime. In all 5 schools participate in exchanges with Pymble and so Worawa students met other young women from all over Australia.

On the first day at Pymble, students participated in a regular school day. Worawa students also followed Pymble school rules and routines and stayed at the Pymble year 8 boarding house for the duration. On Friday, all students headed into Sydney for an extravaganza of sightseeing, surfing lessons and fun! It was an amazing day with gorgeous weather and surf at Manly Beach.

It was capped off by a walk across the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The following day students were taken to Palm Beach, the location where the TV show Home and Away is filmed. A swim was also had by all at another of Sydney's gorgeous surf beaches. On Sunday everyone was up and about early for the return trip home. Worawa students were tearfully farewelled by their new Pymble friends to the sounds of Macklemore's 'Good Old Days.'

The trip home was tinged with sadness but also with the knowledge of good friends made. Worawa students were praised by Pymble senior staff for their positive behaviour and attitude.



CREATIVE ARTS

Worawa Performing Arts students have had another very busy and successful term. After months of creating and rehearsing, the Academy girls performed their play 'Turbine' for students and teachers from all over Melbourne at the Malthouse Theatre, one of Melbourne's most prestigious venues. The ultimate performance was a highlight of the day, challenging the audience to understand the universal importance and meaning of caring for country. Our dancers were able to experience performing in different settings, for very diverse audiences. They danced on the Dreaming Trail for Culture Day, on a stunning Sunday at the beautiful Ridgefield Gardens at their Open Garden, for special guests at school, and in Melbourne at Deloitte's impressive central offices. The dancers were also challenged in intensive contemporary dance workshops, introducing them to a style new to most of them. The Australian Chamber Orchestra ensemble brought yet more new ideas and experiences, working with our students to create and perform stunning movements, accompanied soundscapes. Cumbungi group designed and constructed inventive puppets, which then became stars of short movies devised and filmed by the students. The hard work and commitment, and the highs and lows of being a performer, were explored through detailed films studies.

In our art studio students are producing high quality work where they are learning new techniques in cultural expression, with stunning results.

CADET RANGERS

In Term Four the Cadet Rangers established three Bee Colonies on the School Grounds. These will assist in the pollination of all of plants across the school as well as the fruit and vegetables that will be established next year in our garden that is funded by a Love Food Hate Waste grant that will allow the girls to have a stronger connection to what they eat through developing their own produce to be used in the kitchen. This will develop skills that can be used back in the home communities.

The girls learned about the differences between Native Bees and European Bees, how a bee colony is established and the role the different bees play within the hive. Safety around the bees is extremely important for the students and we have special equipment for working around the hives to ensure that all the team is safe. This includes making sure all of the body and face is covered with netting or fabric and the use of a smoker to calm the Bees before opening a hive. The team is looking forward to our first honey harvest next winter.

FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATE AND BARISTA TRAINING

One of the biggest employers of young people in Australia is the hospitality industry and so this term participating Year 10 students have successfully completed their short course and certificate in Food Safety.

This is an important certificate for anyone wanting to work in the hospitality industry. Students worked hard to study all aspects of safe food handling and Worawa chef Tony Vella provided additional handy hints as well as tours of his kitchen so students could see food safety in action. Students also participated in food preparation activities so they could gain practical experience.

This included a day of Barista training with Colin and Franc, staff from the RACV Healesville Country Club. Students were very excited to know how to make a latte, cappuccino and more from the experts. So it's hot chocolates and coffees all round!



SPORT AND RECREATION

Worawa places emphasis on student participation in physical fitness and sporting activities to enhance individual health and wellbeing. Health, Physical Education and Sport are delivered through formal lessons which introduce the girls to essential skills, knowledge and understandings. All girls are encouraged to engage in sport. The Worawa program offers football, netball, basketball and softball. The school has developed

a strong sporting reputation and collaborates with local sports associations. An exciting introduction has been students learning Martial Arts from World Champion Jiu-Jitsu 'Barkinji Warrior' Shantelle Thompson who shared her inspirational personal journey with the girls. Recreation activities change according to the weather. Favourite activities include visits to the snow fields in winter and the beach in summer.



SPORTS ACADEMY

Sports Academy participants spent Term 4 learning how to analyse and improve sport skills through feedback, in particular, visual feedback. The students learnt how to use the sports analysis app Dartfish on the iPads.

This involved them selecting a skill to improve and filming themselves performing the skill. Once they understood the movement requirements they were able to use the visual feedback to understand where the movement needed to be improved. The app allowed them to slow down the movement, pause it, draw on it, and play it side by side with a video of the correct technique.

This, along with peer feedback, enabled them to practice the skill the right way and devise a training plan to improve the movement. The students also participated in various feedback practicals to enforce understanding and understand how important the different forms of feedback have on improving performance. The skills they developed this term expand their coaching skills learned last term allowing the students to understand the importance of feedback for coaching purposes and self-improvement.