



# NEWSLETTER

Term 4, 2013

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

## THE '2013 WORAWA PRESENTATION DAY' WAS OUR MOST TRIUMPHANT TO DATE

See page 2 for more details



Coral with her proud Mum and Nan



Smoking Ceremony

## PHILLIP ISLAND CAMP 2013

For the fourth year running all students and staff took off for beautiful YMCA Phillip Island Camp. Set amongst incredible bushland with an uninterrupted view of Smiths Beach, we were ready to spend our days surfing, swimming and exploring. We were extremely lucky with the weather as it was blue skies every day.

Many of the students came to the camp as first time surfers. This was hard to believe as so many of them got out there like experts, standing up on their boards and riding waves all the way in to the shore. Body boarding and snorkelling were also favourite activities for many students. When the students weren't in the water, their time was spent building sand castles, playing volleyball and beach cricket. The wonderful thing about this year's camp was that every student chose to participate in all activities. The level of fun, enthusiasm and excitement was felt by everyone for the entire three days.

Another highlight for the students was the wonderful choice of healthy food. As the days were filled with lots of activity it was important to have a diet that kept everyone's energy levels up.

This year's camp was a real highlight of the school year. For three days, students worked and played together with such joy it was a truly magical experience. We are all so excited to go back again next year, put on those wetsuits and carve up those waves.



Having a blast!



We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

## WORAWA PRESENTATION DAY 2013

The '2013 Worawa Presentation Day' was our most triumphant to date. The day began with a smoking ceremony and didgeridoo call to ceremony. The beautiful new Creative Arts Centre was our venue and visitors more than filled the space. Mr. Tiriki Onus, Wilin Centre, Short Black Opera Company Baritone and Yorta Yorta man, was our esteemed Master of Ceremonies. He reminded the audience of the importance of a school like Worawa, a College that draws its strength from its Aboriginal heritage and leadership.

Senior Students opened the ceremony with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and paid respect to Elders, Past and Present.

Student, Kiarra Williams-Browne, recited a poem that has become a Worawa anthem, 'Spiritual Song of

the Aborigine' written by College founder Hyllus Maris.

The 'North Wind Dance' from Elcho Island was performed by students early in the proceedings. This was all the more exciting because these girls had taught fellow students from other regions the dance, and they all danced together. This demonstrated one of our Worawa values, 'Relationship'; beautifully.

Worawa Principal Ms. Lois Peeler addressed the audience, delineating Worawa's very successful year and encouraging all the girls to keep striving to attain their dreams. Highlights of the year Ms. Peeler referred to were: an enriched cultural program, enhanced wellbeing practice with introduction of mindfulness, relaxation and meditation techniques, an expanded

Pathways to Womanhood program, a highly successful school production of The Sapphires, strengthened partnerships with partner schools and alliances leading to scholarships for Worawa students to undertake senior secondary schooling.

Ms Angela Singh, (Executive Director, Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Victoria), brought the key-note address, and she highlighted the absolute necessity of appreciating, celebrating and fostering Culture, while valuing all forms of education. Ms. Singh shared the importance of ongoing education, appreciating the opportunities to learn all we can. Ms. Natasha Pozzano, Family Member from Elcho Island Community responded on behalf of the College Parents and Friends. She spoke very directly to the students, prompting them to appreciate all the



Choral group performance



Eva and Dad

opportunities they have at Worawa. Natasha identified the fact that not all girls have such opportunities and she invited the students present to take hold of all that they had been given. Natasha encouraged the students to share all they learn with their families and communities.

The Worawa Choral Group entertained the audience with 'Yellow Bird' and 'Ngarra Burra Ferra'. Mrs. Suzanne Brimacombe, (Trinity College) accompanied them on the guitar. Mrs. Lois Peeler, Executive Principal, joined the girls singing the beloved 'Ngarra Burra Ferra', and many of the audience also sang along.

Over twenty five students received well-deserved awards and trophies. These were sponsored by many of Worawa's wonderful friends and

partners. The prestigious Hyllus Maris Academic Trophy was awarded to Kira Briscoe. Kira also received a scholarship to MLC to complete her VCE. The students cheered and applauded each of the girls who received trophies, demonstrating the collegiality and sisterhood we celebrate and encourage at Worawa.

To conclude the day, Ms. Rheannan Port, acclaimed dancer and Wilin Centre Officer, shared a contemporary Indigenous dance that reflected on the native Bower Bird. Following her, a group of Worawa students also danced to choreography Ms. Port taught during previous workshops.

Presentation Day was an exciting celebration of all the student's success; academic, social, emotional and physical. It was a time to

recognize the work and strengths of students, staff and partners.

The day of celebration concluded with a beautiful exhibition of Aboriginal Art, including our own students amazing work, a showing of the Holland Exhibition (an exceptional student collection that will be shown in an International Exhibition in Rotterdam in 2014) and delicious sampling of Indigenous inspired food.

Worawa's 2013 was spectacular and we have every reason to believe that 2014 will eclipse it!



A proud and happy Janet with Shannelle



Regina with proud parents Reggie and Beth

## CURRICULUM HAPPENINGS

### Worawa Performing Arts, Term 4, 2013

Term three saw an emphasis on all aspects of Performing Arts. However, in Term 4 there have been two wonderful opportunities for our students. The girls from Elcho Island, and parent, Natasha Pozzano, started the term running workshops on their traditional dance. Natasha explained the meaning of some of the dances. During the term these girls formed a dance group and rehearsed, 'North Wind', to share with our Presentation Day audience. A wonderful element of this class was the sharing of Culture, from one region of Aboriginal Australia, to another. In one workshop a Darwin girl shared that 'I can't wait to show my Mum the dance' and also that the dance 'makes me proud'. Another student said 'this dancing makes me so relaxed.' The group performed as one integrated team on Presentation Day.

Dance workshops were also led by acclaimed Indigenous Dancer, Rheannan Port. The girls learned about expressive dance forms, imitating the Bower Bird as they danced. On Presentation Day they performed with a great deal of pride. 2014 will see the continuation of contemporary dance as well as traditional dance lessons and Hip Hop classes. Senior girls will take part in Ballroom Dance lessons in preparation for their debut next year.

Along with the Dance lessons, Drama and Music will be offered to our students. The Wilin Centre for Indigenous Art and Culture, Malthouse Theatre and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music will partner with Worawa. Many plays, musicians and other presentations are attended by Worawa students throughout the year.



Girls traditional dance performance

### Visual Art

Once again it was another fantastically successful year in Art. The work produced this year was again of a very high standard.

The student's Art work was exhibited in the exhibition "Sharing our stories". The exhibition was professional and impressive and was one of the highlights of Presentation Day, with many students selling their pieces of Art work.

Another main event in Art this year was for selected students to do major pieces of work specifically for an Exhibition at the Aboriginal Art Gallery in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in June 2014. The finished pieces were also a highlight to Presentation Day, as these pieces we also exhibited in an exhibition titled "The Holland Collection" This exhibition was held in the Art Studio and generated a huge amount of interest and high acclaim.



Holland Exhibition

### Basketball

Since the beginning of the school year, every Wednesday night 15 selected girls have represented Worawa in the local domestic basketball competition. With a focus on commitment, sportsmanship and fun, the girls trained hard each week and played even harder. Earlier on in the year, the Under 16's team proudly won their sections grand final, which meant they were automatically placed into a higher grand. While this proved to be challenging at first, the girls trained twice a week focusing on further advancing their fitness, skills and tactical play. Gradually the girls began to win more and more games in the higher level, which meant that the following season they were placed in the highest grade any Worawa team has played in before. Both teams are currently ranked top two in their

divisions, which will place them in strong contention for even greater success in 2014. Well done girls, we are extremely proud of your efforts and the way you've proudly represented your families, communities and school. We look forward to even greater success in the seasons to come.



On court action

### The Library Comes to Worawa

This term we have been privileged to have Amanda Wallace, a teacher librarian from Scotch College, volunteering in the library at Worawa. Amanda has been teaching Information Literacy skills to all the students, and has been working to help improve the physical environment of the library as well. Among the lessons learnt this term have been book trailers (like a movie trailer for books), how to catalogue a book, finding the details for a bibliography and learning about searching for information. These elements all form a large part of the wider English learning area. Much thanks to Amanda for her time, patience and kindness while at Worawa.



Worawa Library



# Worawa Careers and Pathways

In the last term at Worawa many senior students had the opportunity to undertake work experience either locally or at the College. Placements gained were at the Melbourne Museum, Healesville Sanctuary, Healesville Hotel, Yarra Ranges Dental Van, Commonwealth Bank, school clinic and within the College Art Gallery. Girls gained an appreciation of what it was like to work a full week in their selected industries; Retail, Hospitality, Tourism, Banking & Finance and Health professions.

An excursion to the HMAS Cerberus Navy Base at Stony Point gave the students insight into the variety of professions and job roles attainable within the Defence Force. Girls had a tour of the facilities (Cadet quarters, Classrooms, Gym, Engineering, Boatswain, Hospital & Dental), learnt about the fitness requirements, participated in a sinking ship drill and even had a go at shooting targets. It was great for the students to learn that these career pathways and community services jobs are readily achievable and some are thinking to join!

## POLYTECHNIC

Students undertaking the Certificate II Rural Operations have finished the year with a flourish having completed their collection of pressed natives (Herbarium) and tended the plants propagated earlier in the year. Experts from the local region extended classwork on recognising fauna and plant identification where the girls learnt many plant adaptations to the Australian environment and scouted for animals using tracks, scats and scent.

Over the year the participating girls have acquired the skills detailed for each of the various units and integrated learning from the Rangers program, Science and Culture classes.

Through undertaking this certificate students have demonstrated many skills transferable in any vocational setting.



Polytech girls propagating native seedlings in the hotbeds

## FORENSIC SCIENCE VISITS TO GTAC

Students attended the Melbourne University Gene Technology Access Centre "Bacteria Bandits" program. This involved using a story to explore the science used in forensic detective work. The story begins with an investigation of a food poisoning outbreak. Students had to check patient records and through association of common symptoms, similar events and the spread of disease, identify possible suspects. After they deduced that the food poisoning came from a couple of Hamburger vendors at the Royal Melbourne Show, four scientific experiments were conducted to isolate the offending pathogen from a list of bacteria.

Students explored the role of DNA in determining what organisms will look like. This involved identifying the embryos of humans, bats, mice, birds and turtles!



Getting hands on in the Science lab



Lekara at Sandra Bardas Art Gallery



Face painting at Healesville Sanctuary



Hairdressing at Worawa through Box Hill Institute

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

# We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

## MONBULK RUNS FOR WORAWA

In the beginning of November this year, the Monbulk community gathered together to run for Worawa.

Before the event began, the students stood proudly and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of this region the Wurundjeri people. After the Acknowledgement, the students led the race participants in a 'warm up' showcasing their Zumba skills with a dance they have been practising throughout the term.

It was exciting to watch all of the Worawa students participating in the fun run. They were enthusiastic and motivated which was an outstanding effort, considering the race took part early on a Sunday morning. Overall the event raised around \$2,500.



Running for a good cause

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

During Term 3 and 4 a select group of students have been involved in Worawa's 'Oral History Project'. Overseen by professional photographer and videographer David Callow, the students have learned the skills that are involved in creating professional standard movies. The focus for the project during this term was to interview and film local Elder Aunty Dot Peters.

The students researched Aunty Dot's life and discussed areas of interest that could be explored in the interview. The girls were privileged to be able to film Aunty Dot in her home in Healesville, which enabled her to share the photos, paintings and woven art that accompanied her many stories. Despite their initial nervousness, the students greatly enjoyed their experience interviewing Aunty Dot.

The process of creating a short movie about Aunty Dot's life required the

students to learn many new skills. David Callow enabled the girls to show their initiative and develop confidence in their creativity by taking responsibility for all aspects of the filmmaking process.

Using the camera, the students learned how to frame their subject, use multiple camera angles, adjust focus and exposure, and ensure the lighting and audio were visually appealing. The students were taught how to use Adobe Premiere to edit their footage, which is a professional standard editing software.

Throughout the term, the students have displayed great talent and creative flair in their filmmaking and are to be congratulated on their efforts.



Girls filming an interview with Elder Aunty Dot Peters

## LONG WALK WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

Three Worawa students were fortunate to attend this year's The Long Walk Women's Luncheon held on October 11 at Peninsula, the Docklands. The fundraising luncheon, which is celebrated in each state each year, celebrates the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Zarkema, Alliyanna & Coral were fortunate to meet some of the special guests at the event, including award-winning actress, Shari Sebbens who played 'Kaye' in The Sapphires. The Worawa students were very grateful to the Wirrpanda Foundation who donated the tickets for them to attend the event.



Aunty Pam, Kathryn Gale, Coral, Alliyanna, Zarkema

## SMARTER SCHOOLS NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

(SSNP) support for Worawa College has come to an end.

In late November, Principal, Lois Peeler attended a Symposium at Independent Schools Victoria for all National Partnership Independent schools to mark the end of the funding that has supported a select number of Victorian Independent schools since 2009.

In the presentation she acknowledged the progress that the College has made, as a result of the funding and personnel support received through the SSNP. The majority of the funding has provided opportunities for staff to attend and participate in in-school and out-of-school professional learning programs. Our annual Parent and College community Forum has also been supported each year by SSNP staff.

## COLLEGE COMMEMORATES REMEMBRANCE DAY

Worawa students took time out from classes on November 11 to commemorate Remembrance Day. Two of the students, Hakira and Andrea, made a wreath from the flowers and shrubs around the College grounds to place at the base of the memorial stone between the College flagpoles. It was a solemn and respectful occasion, with students taking part in readings. We remembered all those servicewomen and servicemen, particularly those from the Aboriginal community who sacrificed themselves for our shared land.



Students gather around the flag-poles on Nov 11