



NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 2015

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



Aboriginal Culture

The teaching of Aboriginal culture and history is fundamental to the purpose of Worawa and an essential component of the College's integrated academic, culture and wellbeing model.

The Worawa Culture Program has been designed to foster in students' knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the diversity of Aboriginal Australia's culture and history and enhancement of personal and cultural identity.

Aboriginal perspectives and knowledges across the curriculum are fundamental to the 'Worawa Way'. The teaching of Aboriginal culture lies in the domain of Aboriginal Elders who bring with them a 'lived experience' cultural heritage, Aboriginal history and cultural values.

Whilst nurturing the pride and identity of each student's attachment to the Country from which they originate, the cultural program assists students to gain knowledge of Victorian Aboriginal history and culture, the Kulin Nation and the land of the Wurundjeri on which the College is situated. This leads them to understand the world around them; especially the awareness of the place of the Indigenous community in the local, regional, state, national and international political and economic systems.

The Worawa Culture Program is composed of four units: Indigenous Australia, Aboriginal Heritage, Cultural Identity and Language, Aboriginal History, Two Worlds.

Below: Sasha Murungunhawuy Yumbulul dances Lungurrma (North Wind)



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ART

Term 2 in the Art room has been a flurry of girls completing their Traditional Aboriginal artworks. The focus has been on telling stories through art. Many students have gathered ideas, shared techniques, talked story and helped each other as they created beautiful artworks. The term has also seen many girls come up with ideas and create non-traditional work. It has been lovely to see them evolve their styles, grow in confidence and technique throughout the term.

In the middle of the Term, past and present students artworks were displayed in the re-named William Barak Room of the Supreme Court of Victoria. We were lucky enough to take 4 girls into the city to be a part of the first Smoking Ceremony that has been conducted on Supreme Court land. The girls spoke to Judges and other staff about their work. It was a fantastic experience for all involved.

SISTERS IN LEARNING

Orange and Green group this term took on the challenge of sharing a library session together. In these sessions each of the Orange Group were matched up with 1-2 students from the green group. Together they shared in learning, and the Orange students became mentors to the Green students. The older girls assisting the younger students in finding information from books and from the internet, developing literacy skills and demonstrating our four R's (Relationship, Responsibility, Respect and Rigour) in every session.

Orange enjoyed being able to be mentors for the younger students and Green really enjoyed having more individualised support and at times a person from the same language group to help break down some of the communication barriers.

A highlight for the term would have to have been our concluding event to the term where each student was responsible for gathering five clues to identify two different animals we would find in the Zoo. Each team then had their clues presented to the other teams. The sooner the team guessed the correct answer the more points the team got, if we got to the fifth clue then the clue making team got the full five points.



SCIENCE

Worawa is delighted at the development of a partnership with the CSIRO, through its Flagship Indigenous Engagement project.

During our Science unit 'Light and Sound', two research scientists, Katherine Locock and Kate Lomas came out to work with students for the day to lead them in exploring the question: "How do animals hear and communicate?"

Kathryn gave students a presentation on what the CSIRO does, the kinds of discoveries and inventions they are responsible for, and what it's like to be a real scientist. Students heard from Kate about cutting edge research into how 'Wetas' from New Zealand/Aotearoa hear, and were shocked to learn that these insects have ears on their legs.

Students were in disbelief when Kate told us that she had been able to actually name a part of the Weta ear after her son. The students compared the way that Wetas hear with what they had been learning during the term about the human ear, identifying similarities and differences.

They were then invited to think about how elephants communicate. All good Science must involve experimentation, so students were taken onto the oval and given a horn and some blocks of wood so that they could compare whether higher or lower pitched sounds travelled further.

They discovered that the reason elephants mostly communicate with low frequency sounds is because these sound waves are less susceptible to distortion, enabling the animals to communicate with family members up to a kilometre a way.

The partnership has been fruitful, and will continue into the future. We thank Kathryn, Kate and the rest of the CSIRO team for their support for Indigenous engagement in Science.

GOVERNOR VISITS WORAWA

Worawa was delighted to have a visit from The Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, Governor of Victoria. The Governor was welcomed with a smoking ceremony, a walk through the Dreaming Trail, students recited the school poem and gave a performance of traditional dance.

A conducted tour of the campus ended with a visit to our beautiful Sandra Bardas Art Gallery.



STUDENTS IN THE KITCHEN

Term two has seen a transformation of Worawa's menu to bring a variety of fresh meals and new and improved ideas to both nutrition and food flavours. On weekends, students have been given the opportunity to join the kitchen staff to participate in meal preparation and service.

This assistance has given the girls valuable knowledge in healthy food choices and how they can produce simple healthy meals in a very short time frame. The girls have also expanded their knowledge in health and safety in food management in a commercial kitchen, skills that can be practiced in their everyday life.

The girls have produced a variety of foods from different cultures such as Indian, Greek, Italian and Mexican. Some highlights included making their own ice cream and cordial.

DREAMTIME AT THE 'G

On Saturday May 30, the girls from Worawa embarked on an umpiring journey at the MCG. It began with AFL umpires training at Worawa from Neville Nash (AFL Victoria) on hand signals, goal umpiring and boundary umpiring. The girls did so well in their training, there were a lot of laughs and it was really impressive to see the talent displayed for umpiring AFL. Thirteen girls were selected to umpire at halftime during the Richmond vs Essendon match, during the Indigenous round. There were a lot of nerves down below in the MCG, waiting in the change rooms to run up the race and onto the ground. Despite their nerves, the girls did such a fantastic job; they took control of their games and helped the Auskick players to have a memorable experience.

SCOTCH COLLEGE VISIT

Worawa students were invited to attend the annual Independent schools' Welcome to Country at Scotch College early this term. Our students proudly recited the Worawa College Poem and our Arnhem Land dancers performed a contemporary Yolngu dance. It was a special surprise for the girls to be re-united with some of our ex-Worawa College students who are now attending other Independent schools in Melbourne and completing their Year 11 and 12 studies.



STUDENT WELLBEING



Term two has been a busy one for the Wellbeing team at Worawa. Jenni Armstrong, Credentialed Mental Health Nurse, has provided clinical mental health support to students, as well as staff education and support. Worawa now has access to Holly Melrose, Educational Psychologist, to conduct assessments and assist to develop management/learning plans.

The EACH dental van has been on site at the College all term. The service has provided dental assessments and treatment as needed for all students. EACH has also provided moulded mouthguards for the students who play AFL football.

The College continues to have weekly visits from doctors from Valley Primary Health Centre who provide ongoing medical care for the students. Eastern Health Aboriginal Health Service has provided an Aboriginal Health Worker to assist with health assessments for all students. Students have also accessed physio and podiatry consultations through Eastern Health. The Australian College of Optometry has visited the College twice this semester, providing eye exams and where needed, glasses. Dr Simone Aybar has continued to provide support to the students through chiropractic care. Immunisations have been provided by the local Yarra Ranges Council nurses. Headspace Knox provided an education session on amphetamines such as ICE to assist students to stay safe over the term break. We truly value the support of external providers in meeting the health and wellbeing needs of our students.

CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

The chaplaincy program falls within the College's Wellbeing Program providing pastoral care and support for students through the various seasons of their life at boarding school. Worawa teaching and residential staff knows it can be difficult for students to be away from family and community, especially when there are family worries, illness, sorry business or other personal issues affecting the ability to concentrate at school. Through the chaplaincy program students receive the spiritual and emotional support they require to stay connected whilst at school.

PATHWAYS TO WOMANHOOD MASTER CLASS

The Pathways to Womanhood program has continued to thrive this term with some very special opportunities for those girls involved. The term began with the PTW Master Class, facilitated by world renowned trainer D. Trinidad Hunt of the World Youth Network International.

Together with other young Indigenous women from all over Victoria, including some past Worawa students, the PTW cohort spent two very engaging and moving days reflecting on their unique gifts and challenges as emerging young women. The Master Class provided an opportunity for the girls to grow in self-esteem and confidence and begin to dream and set goals for a happy, healthy future.

The Master Class culminated in a celebratory dinner, attended by Ms. Sasha Sarago who is a fashion model, television presenter and entrepreneur. Ms. Sarago spoke very passionately about her life and work and inspired the girls to seek inner beauty as well as outward good looks. The PTW participants have continued to develop in confidence and take on new roles of leadership within the house system and the school at large.

We wish to thank Quay West Suites, St Vincent de Paul Society, Richmond Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Balwyn for their support which enabled the participation of young Indigenous women external to Worawa. Special thanks to Yarra Valley Lodge for continued support of the PTW program.



WORAWA SPORTS

NETBALL

After a mixed start to the season, Term 2 saw our three teams really start coming together and the standard of netball significantly increase.

The Wallabies U15s team, which consists almost entirely of first-time netballers and began the season with back to back losses, have made a remarkable turnaround. The girls are now playing with a confidence and level of skill well beyond the few short months of experience they have. The Echidnas U15s team have progressively come together as a team, uniting their individual talents to create a fast-paced and formidable side. Although their skills don't always translate to the scoreboard, they are having a great season and will most likely play final games at the end of the season.

The Kangaroos U17s team have been playing some impressive netball each week. The core group of girls have adapted beautifully to having different players in their team each week. The team is extremely versatile, with girls being able to play multiple positions on court to a fantastic standard. The team has won games, lost games and even had a draw!

SOCCER

The Victorian Churches Football Association saw two Worawa teams join the Ladies Division 2 competition this year, the Winyas and the Tiddas. Although both teams had a few more experienced



players, most were having their first organised soccer experience.

Saturday afternoons are game day. The teams have taken on the challenge of learning the many rules and strategies of soccer, even becoming quite competitive early on in the season. All the players have made a fantastic improvement and are each establishing an important role on and off the pitch. Well done to both the Tiddas and Winyas this term, we all look forward to an even better second half of the season.

BASKETBALL

Under 16 Eagles (B grade)

The girls have shown some impressive skills and are developing as a cohesive unit. They are learning about what it means to be positive sports women and that winning or losing is only one aspect of a team sport. They are training well and learning positions on court and what

roles they need to fulfil. Shooting is definitely a skill the team will need to continue to practice over the coming weeks in order to reward their continuous hard defence.

Under 18 All Stars (A grade reserves)

The girls have certainly stepped up a level, with the consistency of the regular 7 players both at training and games, they are playing strong defensive team basketball. They are pushing hard to learn and apply new offensive techniques to their game, and with some regular shooting practice their hard work defensively should start paying off.

They are currently sitting third on the ladder with some tough teams coming up for the second half of the season. The team should be extremely proud of how they are progressing, and are showing the true Worawa fighting team spirit as well as sportsmanship.



RECONCILIATION SPORTS CARNIVAL 2015

Worawa's 2015 Reconciliation Sports Carnival fell on Sorry Day, Tuesday 26th May. The weather on the day was brilliant sunshine enabling all our athletes to participate to their potential and all guests to be active spectators. The day commenced with a traditional Smoking Ceremony.

The day's sporting events began with the little league match between two local primary schools, Badger Creek Primary School and Healesville Primary School. Badger Creek (03.02.20) defeated Healesville (02.04.16) in a highly competitive and well played match. It was great to see both boys and girls participating in the game and having an enjoyable time.

Following this, the senior football match was played between the newly formed all Aboriginal team, Eastern Eagles and Melbourne Grammar School. The game was hard fought and very close throughout all four quarters, with some spectacular skills on display. David Wirrpanda gave advice to the Eagles team from the bench however; it was not enough for the Eagles to come away with the win.

Melbourne Grammar School (12.05.77) defeated Eagles (10.13.73) in a tough game to win the Sir Douglas Nicholls Trophy. The Best on Ground Award for the match went to Jordan Toikalkien (Eagles), the Sportsmanship Award was given to Bohdi Walker (Eagles) and the Team Spirit Award to Tyrone Hayer (MGS).

Both football matches were umpired by Worawa girls, as a result of their

training with Neville Nash from AFL Victoria. The girls did a spectacular job field and goal umpiring in the little league match, ensuring the game was played in good spirit. For the senior football match, the girls had a huge task; the boundary umpiring and goal umpiring for the entire 80 minute match on the full AFL size oval. The girls enjoyed themselves being a part of the football matches and gladly listened to advice given to them by Chelsea Roffey, the first female to umpire an AFL Grand Final.

The final sporting event for the day was the netball round robin in which all teams compete for the Naomi Atkinson Trophy. All teams had a competitive preliminary rounds series, with all teams winning at least one match. The finals competition was played between Worawa, Shelford, Melbourne Girls' Grammar School (MGGS) and Genazzano. The Worawa team played a tough game against Melbourne Girls Grammar for the place in the grand final but didn't come away with the win.

The Grand Final was played between Shelford and Melbourne Girls' Grammar. Shelford had a convincing win at the conclusion of the match, defeating Melbourne Girls' Grammar 15 – 3. The overall Most Valuable

Player for the competition was awarded to Caitlyn DeGaris (Shelford), with Stephanie Williams from Worawa being awarded the encouragement award. Claudia Calvert from MGGS was given the team spirit award.

Worawa students also assisted in the running of the day by face-painting, applying temporary tattoos and selling food. The Student Representative Council set up a stall with homemade cookies to sell to raise funds for victims of the Nepal Earthquake.

Congratulations to all girls on their participation and behaviour on the day, it was fantastic event for everyone involved and truly showed the spirit of reconciliation.

Thank you to all of our special guests, including Bradley Hill (Hawthorn Football Club), David Wirrpanda (ex- West Coast Eagles), Chelsea Roffey (AFL Umpire) and Cassandra Hadson (Netball Victoria). A huge 'thank you' to all of our volunteers, including SEDA who completed sports administration duties, Lilydale and Yarra Valley Netball Association, Healesville Football Club, AFL Victoria, Wirrpanda Foundation, Hawthorn Football Club and Ruckus.



Worawa students umpired the games.



Chelsea Roffey with Liam Hyde from Healesville Primary School.



Worawa girls with Hawks star Bradley Hill.