



NEWSLETTER

Term 4, 2022

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

Presentation Day 2022



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Presentation Day 2022

At Worawa student achievement in every sense is acknowledged and celebrated. In the classroom, in the boarding house, in sport / physical fitness, in health and wellbeing.

At Worawa a rigorous teaching and learning program is at the core of our student's educational experience so they are well equipped to take up any opportunity they may wish to access in the future.

We also wish to empower our young women with confidence and pride in identity and belonging as First Nation's people. Knowing our history, holding onto our traditions and finding voice in telling 'OUR' story – giving us the knowledge, strength, ability and confidence to STAND UP!

To our young women: Worawa has a commitment to growing strong young women through student agency.

The Four R's: Relationship, Responsibility, Respect and Rigour underpin your education and personal development here at Worawa - to empower you to act with confidence in order to choose and direct your pathway now, and into the future. It is with much joy that today we celebrate your achievements which underpin your ability and your confidence to Walk in Two Worlds.





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AWARD WINNERS

1. ENGLISH AWARD: **Katiana Zboril**

This award recognises a student who has demonstrated a strong commitment to developing a high level of skill in reading and writing. She actively engages in thought provoking discussions and debates in both oral and written form and is passionate in ensuring that her voice as a young Aboriginal woman is heard.

2. CARING FOR COUNTRY: **Matezsea Wellington**

This award recognises a student who has demonstrated a key passion for her History, Geography and Civics classwork. She is a future leader and strong independent learner who is actively developing a cultural approach to Caring for Country and her identity as a young Aboriginal woman.

3. SCIENCE AWARD: **Nevaeh Collier**

This award recognises a student who has demonstrated a keen interest in Science. She is an active participant in all theory and practical lessons and takes charge of her learning on topics related to Science and STEAM.

4. MATHEMATICS: **Joet Collier**

This award recognises a student who has demonstrated a commitment to the development of her foundation numeracy and maths skills. She has progressed in all key areas throughout the year. She is eager to achieve independence and mastery in all areas of mathematics.

5. TECHNICAL ARTS AWARD: **Leonorah Williams**

This award recognises a student who has taken on opportunities to develop skills with technical equipment in film, media and digital work. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to learn about future technologies and is always willing to give new skills a go.

6. PERFORMING ARTS AWARD: **Katiana Zboril**

This award recognises a student who has demonstrated astounding commitment and growth throughout her involvement in the performing arts this year. We saw her on the screen last night singing, dancing and acting. Behind the scenes she is also active in encouraging her peers to become involved in the performing arts and give everything a go.

7. VISUAL ARTS AWARD: **Hayley Stockman**

This award recognises a student who shows true commitment to visual arts practices, from the practice of traditional techniques from her community to the inclusion of digital technologies. She is always willing to learn new techniques and good arts practice and is actively involved in all art projects on offer at school.

8. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD: **Ada Indiana Brown**

This award recognises a young woman who has demonstrated that she is ready to enter the world of work or further study. She has grasped the opportunities afforded through the personal development and work experience programs with confidence and an ability to Walk in Two Worlds.

9. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: **Lara Robinja**

This award recognises a student who has demonstrated tenacity to overcome challenges and has made a commitment to her learning journey. In every aspect of her life here at Worawa she shows a committed approach to learning and to her relationships with peers and staff.

10. SPORTS WOMAN OF THE YEAR: **Kady Harrison-Proctor**

This award recognises a student who has been an outstanding all-round sportsperson. Throughout 2022 she has represented Victoria at the Indigenous Basketball tournament, was scouted for the Hawthorn Football club junior team and attended the Next Generation Academy Elite Program at Richmond Football Club. Additionally, she has been a key member of Worawa's basketball and football teams.

11. BOARDING HOUSE AWARD: **Ava Nicolle**

This award recognises a student who exemplifies the Worawa values of Relationship, Responsibility, Respect and Rigour in the boarding context. This student carries out her responsibilities conscientiously and sets a good example to other students. She fosters and maintains positive relationships with students and staff and always has a kind word. She is reliable and insists on finishing what she has started in activities that she undertakes.

12. ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD:

Kady Harrison-Proctor

This award recognises a student who is making the most of their opportunities at Worawa. This student started at Worawa as a year 7 student in Term 1 2021 and has maintained fantastic attendance every single term since. This student actively engages in all extra-curricular activities offered by the College. She has grown in confidence and maturity over the last two years and we look forward to continuing to support her for her remaining 4 years of high school.

13. JUNIOR LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Matezsea Wellington

This award recognises a student who has chosen to involve herself in all aspects of College life. She is a leader and mentor to other students in the school and in the boarding house. This student is an excellent team player, with a positive approach to all aspects of College life. Her enthusiasm is always on display, whether it is with her peers in the classroom, behind the camera in the school production, running a lunch time club or in the boarding house, she carries out her duties admirably.

14. COURAGE AWARD: **Taleesha Barney**

This award recognises a young student who has demonstrated courage and a commitment to growing their cultural, academic and personal life at Worawa. This student has quietly embraced the opportunities the College has offered her and has contributed to and learned from every educational experience. Throughout 2022 we have seen this student grow in confidence & maturity.

15. CITIZENSHIP AWARD: **Ava Nicolle**

This award recognises a student's contribution to the College and the wider Worawa community. This year's winner is an outstanding student with most admirable personal qualities. She has involved herself in many different aspects of College life, from coaching a basketball team, to holding a lead role in the school production and attending work experience on a weekly basis with a positive can-do attitude. She is a model citizen.

16. THE LONG TAN AWARD: **Teigan Ricky**

This award recognises a student who encapsulates the behaviours and attributes expected of leaders in the Australian Defence Force and Australian society. This student has displayed leadership in all aspects of her experiences at Worawa College. This year's award goes to a student who shows absolute determination and respect for hard work and commitment.

17. HYLLUS MARIS AWARD:

Katiana Zboril

This award is presented to a student who excels in a number of key categories:

Academic

Achieves scholastically across a range of subjects.

Attitude

Willing to help others; makes selfless contributions.

Personal conduct

Exemplary at all times.

Participation

Participates fully in school community activities.

Sport

Involvement in sport.

Leadership

Is a role model for other students.

Culture

Displays positive cultural identity and demonstrates Worawa values of Relationship, Responsibility, Respect and Rigour

This year's winner consistently applies herself in class and always produces quality work.

This student has consistently set goals for her learning and for her life – then strives to reach those goals.



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2022 GRADUATING STUDENTS

ADA (INDIANA) BROWN

There have been a lot of friendships created throughout my four years at Worawa. I have watched many leave in that short time. However, Miranda and Kyanna, also known as year 12's, have stuck out til the end. And I am truly honoured to be graduating with such strong, beautiful and smart Black women.

In the past, I have broken a truly strong bond. I'd say it was the bond of sisters. I chose to brake it. However, I have atoned for the mistakes I have made.

Here I am, graduating with these two who I am honoured to call my sisters. I have met many girls from different cultures. Even though we fall under the identity of Aboriginal, there are so many differences between each of the cultures.

I have met so many young women who have had an influence on me. I am truly grateful to have met all of them. I will always have a place in my heart for those young women. They have truly made my days at Worawa much more enjoyable. I couldn't have asked for better people to spend my high school years with. These friendships will last even after we part our ways.

Worawa has given me these opportunities to experience the differences in my cultures. These women who are so driven by their

culture continue to surprise me. You could even say that they have inspired me to hold on to my culture for as long so I can pass it down through my bloodline.

KYANNA MCINTOSH

I became a student at Worawa in 2018. I was only 14 but felt confident coming here, although homesickness caught up to me quickly. I missed my family. I'm now 18, I still get homesick but the years have built my resilience. It felt different travelling back this time knowing it was my last term. My journey at Worawa flew by so quickly.

Sharing cultural dance has been a huge part of my experience at Worawa. I have particularly loved performing and teaching the girls The North Wind. Celebrating Culture Day each term has been special and they're days that I will always remember. There are other memories I feel lucky to have made... being an umpire at the Dreamtime Game for AusKick, laughing with my friends in the boarding houses, dressing up for the Debutant Ball and seeing so much of Victoria.

With all the good, there has still been challenges... being miles from home, missing key events in community, and having lots of school work in Year 12. Having friends and staff support me through the hard times has made me realise we all need each other and are in this together.

I'm going to miss my friends, especially the other Polango girls. I will miss seeing Julie and Suzi at school, and my house parents: Jenny, Tanya, Lina and Carol in the boarding houses.

The advice I would give to the girls starting their schooling at Worawa would be to not try hiding phones because house parents always find them, go to class and enjoy your time because it goes so fast!

MIRANDA ROSE

My name is Miranda Rose and I am a proud Gundijmara and Kurnai women. I have been at Worawa Aboriginal College since Year 7. When I found out I was going to a boarding school I was terrified because I knew I wouldn't be around my family and that scared me.

I have learnt many life skills here and made bonds with people that will never be broken.

Worawa has shown me new ways to live and provided me with knowledge on my culture as well as the culture of different tribes around Australia.

I will never forget Worawa and it will always be my second home as it has set me up for life. I have seen so many people come and go but I am graduating with two of my closest friends.

Overall, my time at Worawa has been amazing and I will never forget my journey here.

For more information visit worawa.vic.edu.au



Farewell Aunty Lois

THANK YOU FOR YOUR AMAZING WORK

After 12 years at the helm, Aunty Lois has announced her retirement as Principal and Executive Director of Worawa Aboriginal College, effective 2023.

During her time at the College, Aunty Lois has overseen programs that shape and guide the lives of young Aboriginal women to take their rightful place as future leaders and to walk confidently in both mainstream and Aboriginal worlds.

WELCOME TANYA PEELER

Tanya Peeler is a proud Aboriginal woman with ancestral connection to Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri and Wurundjeri. Tanya holds a double degree in Marketing and Management from the University of Texas at San Antonio and an Executive MBA degree from University of Sydney.

Over the course of her career, Tanya has held a variety of positions within the education sector, initially with registered training organisations before moving into tertiary education focusing primarily on leadership, strategy and compliance. Prior to commencing at Worawa Aboriginal College, Tanya held an executive position at La Trobe University for 6+ years, with the last two years as Senior Manager, Indigenous Strategy, Education and Community Liaison leading the university's Indigenous strategy across its 5 campuses. Tanya currently sits on several advisory committees promoting successful outcomes for Indigenous people.



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The Premiere of The Sapphires – A School Production was held 6 December 2022 and attended by 175 guests. We would like to thank the Asian Australian Foundation (AAF) for supporting the Sapphires student video production through a grant to equip the school production studio for student 'Learning by Doing'.

The aim of the project was for students to gain skills through 'learning by doing'. The school production fostered skills development in photography. Students also developed an appreciation of what is involved to create music, mix sound or create a film or documentary. These are transportable technical skills that would enable students to gain skills and develop pathways to Indigenous specific or mainstream media settings.

The Sapphires – A School Production video and The Sapphires – Behind The Scenes video are both available on the Worawa Aboriginal College VIMEO account to be viewed and shared by parents, community and members of the public.

The Sapphires – A School Production
<https://vimeo.com/779524464>

The Sapphires – Behind The Scenes
<https://vimeo.com/780853933>

We were delighted to be joined by members of the AAF, Cheri Ong Chairperson, Noel Leung and Chris Hong on opening night. We were pleased to have the family members of the teachers involved in the production Liam Neal and Sarah-Rose McIvor whose Dad lent his considerable expertise to the project - for which we thank you.

STUDENT AND STAFF LEARNINGS AND FEEDBACK ON THE PROJECT

Ava Nicolle – Lead Character Gail

I thought acting was more just about yourself but it is actually about a group of people so team building skills really had to come into it. To me recreating The Sapphires was very inspiring and about being really proud of who you are as a person as well as your identity. In the acting role I learnt to be myself because Gail's role was very similar to me as a person with some of the things she said so I really connected to her role. My favourite part of The Sapphires would have been connecting with the other people. What The Sapphires achieved really inspired me. Touring Vietnam, even with the wars happening, they were very strong and independent and they should be very proud of themselves.

Katiana Zboril – Lead Character Kaye

My role in The Sapphires was Kaye. What I liked about playing Kaye is that her character was really quiet but she was involved in it. I have never done a film like this before, only little short ones but never a full movie and to be a main character that really felt special to be a part of it. When I started acting on film for the first time it is a bit scary having the camera right in front of you but after a while it felt normal. I felt very inspired by the story, that hopefully one day I could do something like that. It hopefully made Auntie Lois proud by doing good just playing the character. My favourite day of filming was when we got dressed up in our blue dresses and went and performed at The Memo.

Learning the hair and makeup was really fun especially learning from a professional and now it is a lot easier to do other girls hair. It was just fun being girly and everything, learning.

Joet Collier – Support Actor Multiple Roles

I played some difficult roles. Merle who was the racist bar owner. I also played the government worker and it was difficult trying to play it and then it is also, it happened to my people but you just have to step in and help everyone so doing the role was fine. Aboriginal girls like going out and doing what they love, it inspires lots of people to get out there and have no shame just go and do what you want to do and no matter what nobody says.

Kady Harrison-Proctor – Hair & Makeup Artistry

Matezea Wellington – Film Crew

Sarah Rose McIvor – Lead Teacher on Project

The idea of The Sapphires was to give students an understanding of what it is like to be in a semi-professional production but also we decided we would film it which is quite different again to not only be putting on a school production but also learning how to film in the process.

We did auditions, we tried to keep it quite professional having a panel there which I know was intimidating but we actually got about half of the cohort coming in to audition and I know that was really scary for them and I was so proud that so many were so keen to be part of this production.

From there we worked with Liam our art teacher and our media teacher here at Worawa who helped the girls understand what it would be like to film and for him he has worked on some big scale productions so he wanted to give the girls that understanding of how to put that process into place. So we decided we would do the production over the course of a week.

We set aside a full week to film. In hindsight that was productive but also very challenging we had that opportunity to capture that production within that week period but it also meant we had to work with varied energy levels from the girls. I have to say I was incredibly impressed with all of them. Most of them were getting up at seven o'clock in the morning to get their hair and makeup done and then they were on set ready to go by nine or ten am, often different locations around the school grounds or offsite.

It was challenging for them, it was not a normal school day as such. So we focused quite heavily on what the girls could learn and benefit from in this process. So partnering with people like makeup artist Sue Frey was just awesome. To have someone of that calibre train the girls not only in how to do that big hair and stage make-up but how to do every day make up that might benefit them when they are going off to work places in the future. Learning how to wash their hair so it looks beautiful and its stays well when you are doing that big sixties hair.

We focused quite heavily on the girls learning how to film so that is something that they can take forward from this project beyond the life of The Sapphires. And of course a big part of my role was in the music side of it and having the girls experience a recording studio was just so exciting.

We set up a beautiful space for the girls to learn from and they got to also learn how to use the equipment to capture the audio that we used in The Sapphires, the beautiful music that you will hear in the production.





SCHOOL COMMUNITY FORUM

In our school-Community forum we heard from family members who value the College leadership programs which focus on building resilience through emphasis on specific skills, experiences and activities that have been identified as important in developing strong young adults who are well-prepared to live positive and productive, happy lives. Families are excited to see their young women developing their identities, personalities, and worldviews as young Aboriginal women through their Worawa experience. There was general agreement amongst participants that their young woman had become more mature, more independent, and more confident in their ability to self-advocate and express personal views, needs and opinions with comments such as,

“You can see it when they come home, they’re just more mature and doing things for themselves instead of expecting me to do everything for them. It’s good. They’re learning to look after themselves” and “She has much more of an identity now since being at Worawa. She’s more proud of herself.” “When she comes home she tells me all about the school. She’s learnt to speak up. I’m really proud of her, she’s learning a lot of things from this school.”

Most participants agreed that the boarding school experience was providing the young women with a pathway to becoming leaders in their communities once they return with many expressing great hope for the young women would embrace roles as educators, cultural or community leaders, as they are acquiring

extensive knowledge and skills which can be brought home and shared. “We send them to Worawa to learn, so they come back and can be Elders. We don’t have very many Elders anymore, so these young ones need to grow and teach others when they get back.” “They’re learning as well as getting education and they’re bringing it all back and sharing with the younger generations when they’re home.”

“She’s more understanding of different people and cultures, and she’s able to speak up and be more supportive of our families back home.”

Communication is vital. It’s just so important to know that the people around them are really caring for them.”

CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH STUDENTS

Our Christmas dinner event brings together the Worawa community; students, families and staff to share a wonderful meal prepared by our talented chefs, gift-giving by Santa, friendship and anecdotal exchange.



MARY-CRUZ FERNANDEZ GRADUATES FROM AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

Congratulations to former student Mary Cruz- Fernandez on graduation from Australian Defence Force training academy.

After five years at Worawa Mary-Cruz Fernandez graduated Year in 2021. Mary's dream was to enter the Australian Defence Force, perhaps inspired by Lt Commander RAN David Lassam who presented Mary with an Award at the Worawa Presentation Day Ceremony.

Mary successfully completed the Australian Defence Force recruitment process and on 11 July was formally enlisted into the Navy in a ceremony in Cairns.

Mary Cruz- Fernandez has graduated from the Australian Defence Force training academy.

We wish her all-the-best for her new career in the Navy.





Season's Greetings

To all our families friends and supporters,
we thank you for your support.

We wish you peace, joy and all the best
this Holiday Season has to offer.

Happy Holidays

From all at Worawa

