

CELEBRATING



40
YEARS
1983-2023

NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2023



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS | 1983-2023

Worawa is an Aboriginal community initiative – an Aboriginal-led response to past policies and practice relating to the education of Aboriginal children.

At the opening of the College in 1983 the Founder Hyllus Maris described the Worawa approach:

“To effectively answer the particular needs of Aboriginal students... the approach should be holistic, that is, it should be geared to provide not only for the student’s prima facie education but also take into account each student’s background and make provision for overcoming the special problems faced by Aboriginal students such as health problems, poor hearing; emotional insecurities arising from imbalanced family life or prejudice suffered in earlier school life; identity crisis; deep lack of confidence ...”

“The curriculum should reflect a ‘whole education’ approach. It should aim to develop not only the student’s intellectual prowess and physical fitness but also his/her mental capacity, moral values, emotional and spiritual growth.

Pastor Sir Douglas Nicholls, inaugural Patron of Worawa Aboriginal College emphasised the importance of learning Aboriginal culture and history he said:

‘Aboriginal children must be educated in the way of our people. They must learn their history, about their great ancestors, the language and the lore. It’s time for them to know and understand themselves. They must also be educated in the ways of the society in which they live, in the very best of what it has to offer, so they can truly be a part, not only of Australia’s past, but also its present and future’. The College was established four decades ago in response to the difficulties Aboriginal students faced in the mainstream educational system.

The uniqueness of every student’s needs is recognised in personalised learning and wellbeing plans that are monitored and developed as students develop.

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



Worawa continues to honour the Founder's vision through delivering an integrated education, culture and wellbeing model of learning.

Having commenced as a co-ed school, in 2008 Worawa took the decision to become a single sex school to support the development of preferred pathways for Aboriginal young women. Today Worawa caters specifically for Aboriginal girls and young women in the age range of 12 to 18 years.

The Worawa Vision/Philosophical Statement is: 'Sending young Aboriginal women out into the world with confidence in who they are, where they want to be and what they can contribute to their communities and to the wider world.'

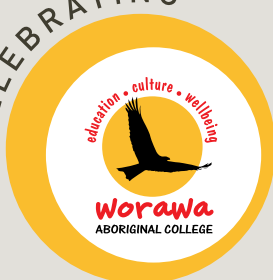
Worawa Aboriginal College exists to enable students to 'walk confidently in both worlds.' Creating new learning experiences and opportunities empowers girls, enabling them to select alternatives in their life through increased opportunity for continued academic pursuits, employment and training or development of skills to contribute to the development of their community.

Young women are supported to develop new skills and abilities that build self-esteem and confidence and potentially benefit the families and communities in which they live.

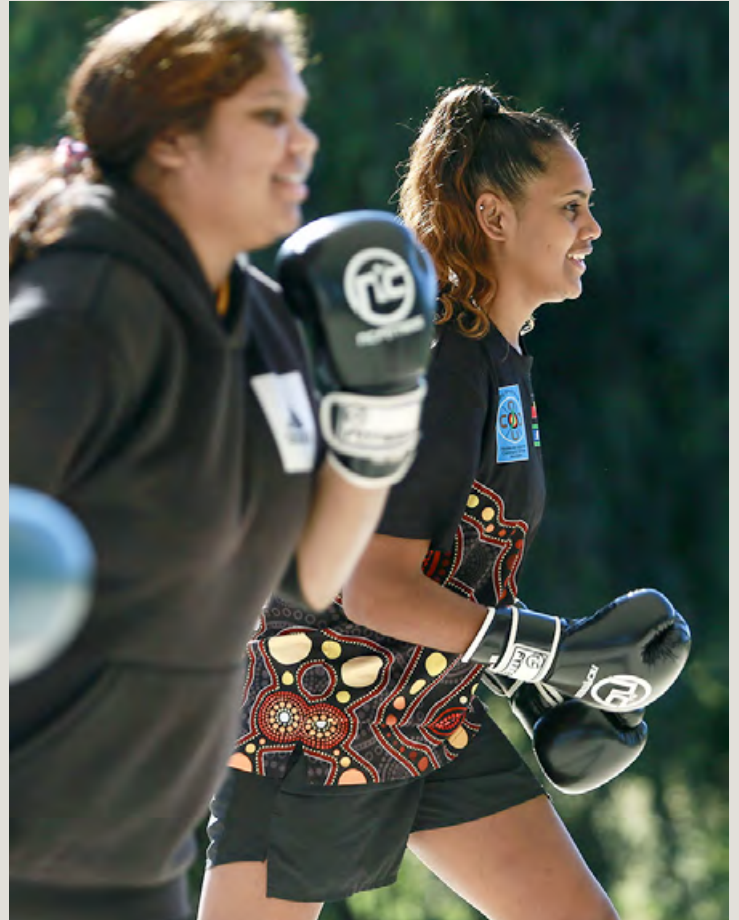
Students maintain strength and pride in their own unique culture and in that culture's importance to Global Knowledge, while also learning more about the dominant, mainstream Australian culture.

This is with a view to being Global Citizens able to take an influential place in their own community or on the national or international stage in the future.

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Pathways to Womanhood (PTW) Program

The Worawa Pathways to Womanhood program is a capability and leadership development program. Students enter into the co-curricular program through interview and their own personal application. Pathways to Womanhood highlights learning opportunities and personal goals.

The program is focused on continually building resilience, skills and self confidence in the students so that they are increasing in the ability to live with integrity and strength. It is equally important to acknowledge very regularly that no one progresses in a straight line. However, the difference between success and true failure is not in falling or failing rather it is when we do not get up, and try again.

The PTW program is aimed at developing within the parameters of Worawa methodology 'The Four Rs' (a condensed and considered Aboriginal model):

Relationship: Respectful relationships with peers, staff, Elders and public.

Responsibility: For self. As a leader. To Culture and Family.

Respect: As evidenced in the College's integrated program. Classroom, boarding, outings, events, sports - participation and behaviour.

Rigour: Self-care – nutrition, fitness; etiquette; deportment, commitment.

The Pathways to Womanhood program aims to:

- build self-esteem and confidence of Aboriginal girls.
- promote personal development and well-being.
- instil qualities of discipline, goal setting and achievement.
- present a positive profile of Aboriginal young women.
- instil pride in the Aboriginal parents/community of the young people who attend Worawa.
- provide an opportunity for Aboriginal girls at Worawa to experience a significant social event available to other young women of their age.
- provide an opportunity for positive social interaction between Indigenous and non-indigenous students.

The purpose of the program is to prepare the young adults to discover and tap into their leadership potential both at the College level and in life beyond. We believe that leadership is about building relationships and the first relationship starts with the self and then ripples out to others.

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing





For more information visit worawa.vic.edu.au



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Learning from the Land



Worawa Aboriginal College was established by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal children. The pedagogical approach is founded on 'Learning from the Land' – honouring the land and the stories it holds. Central to Worawa is the Dreaming Trail, developed at the wish of Aboriginal Elders as an educational tool to record and celebrate aspects of

Victorian Aboriginal traditional culture and lifestyle. As First Nations People our intimate connection to land has been forged over the eons. It is the basis of our belief system, our moiety system, our lore, our kinship system, our cultural ceremony, our spiritual nourishment. Nurturing the land continues to be a very large part of

our responsibility. The Dreaming Trail honours our Aboriginal history and includes plants used traditionally for food, medicine, and craft. We can learn from the ancient teachings of our Old People about relationship, responsibility and respect as it relates to the land and those that walk the land.





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RECONCILIATION AND RELATIONSHIP BUILDING THROUGH CULTURE

Term 1 saw Culture Day and our ongoing Cultural Exchange with The Academy of Mary Immaculate collide. Worawa students invited the Mary Immaculate students to participate in our end of term Culture Day celebrations on Tuesday April 4th.

Year 9 Students Kady Harrison Proctor and Joet Collier greeted the Mary Immaculate bus on arrival and escorted our guests to a clearing behind the football oval where fire pits, picnic mats and pop up gazebos had been set up for a day of sharing and celebration. Students and guests spent the morning participating in a range of activities including damper, roo tail and potato cooking over the camp fires, face painting and various craft and beading activities.

While activities were taking place, Mary Immaculate students shared a delicious morning tea of cakes and muffins which they had prepared themselves. As the lunch hour neared, activities were put aside for an opportunity for students from both schools to share cultural dance.

Students from The Academy of Mary Immaculate African Dance Troupe demonstrated a range of cultural dances and then encouraged Worawa students to participate in a lesson in African Dancing. Worawa students reciprocated by performing North Wind and a variety of other dances within their cultural groups.

The day was brought to a close with a fantastic feast prepared by the Worawa chefs Neil and Ben. Everyone

enjoyed the broad selection including kangaroo stew, prawns, barramundi, roast vegetables and salad and the kangaroo tail, damper and potatoes cooked by students.

Our cultural exchanges with The Academy of Mary Immaculate have become some of the most anticipated events on our calendar and we look forward to continuing and growing this partnership throughout 2023.

Culture Day will look at little different each term as students take a lead in identifying an area of culture they want to focus on and growing this day into a celebration and reflection of who they as young Aboriginal women and a Worawa community.





A DAY AT THE LUME

All Worawa students and teachers left their classrooms for a day to travel to the iconic Convention Centre in Melbourne and participate in an immersive, digital experience of French Impressionism. It was an eventful and memorable day, enjoyed by all and a talking point throughout the remainder of the term.

Students prepared for the experience by exploring what Impressionist Art is, who Monet is and why he is famous during their Art lessons. Students were encouraged to embrace the concepts of this modern and free approach to painting which reflects: life, light, movement, colour and mood. The Lume was the perfect spellbinding journey to capture everyone's' imagination.

What is different about the way this exhibition displays great artworks?

It is not a silent and still experience, instead it is an epic adventure into a fully immersive and sensory digital art experience that transforms the

world's finest masterpieces into an accessible and thrilling 360 degree journey. There are no paintings hanging on blank walls, instead there are 150 cameras projecting art digitally onto a myriad of wall surfaces as well as the floor, with the addition of computer-generated imagery. There are moving images, and super-imposed images that are all enhanced by a choreographed soundtrack and sensory aromas filling the air.

Students weren't quite sure what to expect as this is not the usual art gallery experience. Everyone became excited and fascinated as we entered this unusual space. The movement and almost theatrical presentation of the huge impressionist paintings was enjoyed by all. Students later made comments such as, "This space made me feel calm and relaxed". "I enjoyed the feeling of being surrounded by the colour" and "I loved the movement and light created by the camera projections" and finally, "The seaside paintings made me feel like I was actually at the beach".

Our adventure to The Lume was designed to awaken our senses and help students interact with art in ways they would never have imagined. They wandered, sat peacefully, lingered, chatted, danced and marvelled as a powerful and vibrant symphony of light, colour and sound was displayed all around them. This will be an unforgettable memory for all; an experience that was simultaneously enchanting, entertaining and educational. The girls seemed very vibrant and happy on our excursion which was further enhanced by enjoying lunch together in the landscaped green zone outside The Lume, followed by a trip to an expansive Aquatic Centre.

Our experience at The Lume provided the perfect exposure to try out some new and challenging impressionistic art techniques using a variety of Art mediums. It motivated the girls to embrace a different approach to art and complete some artworks showcasing their newly acquired skills and techniques.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TERM 2 AND BEYOND

Term 1 has just been a warm up for 2023.

We have so much more to come as we celebrate 40 Years of Worawa!

The Worawa Reconciliation Sports Carnival is coming up on the 30th of May. Please save-the-date for what is going to be a spectacular day of sport, music, food, games, activities and reconciliation.

Last year was the biggest sports carnival yet with the addition of volleyball and 3 on 3 basketball alongside the football and netball games.

If you want to get involved contact our admin at: admin@worawa.vic.edu.au



UPCOMING EVENTS

30th May

– Reconciliation Sports Carnival

5th June

– Orientation Week for Semester 2
2023 New Enrolments

21st June

– Term 2 Culture Day

25th August

– Debutante Dreaming Ball

13th September

– Term 3 Culture Day

20th November

– Orientation Week for Semester 1
2024 New Enrolments

5th December

– Community Forum

6th December

– Presentation Day

EXPLORING JOURNALISM WITH THE ABC PROJECT

ENGLISH AT WORAWA

Temiah Malbunka – Year 8
– Hermannsburg NT

We have been busy in our English classes this Term! We began the term creating posters and written reflections for the 2023 NAIDOC theme “For Our Elders.” Students started each day with independent reading and answering comprehension questions. We learned how to use Word on the computers as well as Power Point, and touch-typing. Students practiced a variety of writing styles including: formal and informal letter writing, creating a resume and cover letter and autobiographical writing. Students practiced proofreading and editing their work, as well as providing peer feedback.

Additionally, students in Cumbungi and Baggup also learned about journalism and photojournalism during Project Time on Fridays, with The ABC Project lead by teachers Jessica and Renee. During The ABC Project, students practiced writing news articles, including the 5 W’s (Who, What, When, Where and Why). This helped us improve our reading and writing. Writing is my favourite!

We hope you enjoy reading our first articles!

MATHS AT WORAWA

Marie Cameron – Year 8
– Urapunga NT

In Maths this term Cumbungi have worked on adding negative numbers, telling the time using an analogue clock and using time vocabulary, such as “half-past,” “quarter-to,” and “quarter-past”. Students built life skills in our mathematics of cooking practical lessons. We practiced budgeting, following a recipe and using measurements. For some independent revision, students also enjoyed developing computer and maths skills through the online program Mathletics.

TYPING CLUB

Kanelia Gundari – Year 9
– Amanbidji/Kildurk NT

Throughout the Term, students at Worawa were challenged to learn how to type faster. We used a program called “Typing Club” on the computers which recorded our speed and accuracy. Students went onto Typing Club during extra time when they had finished the lesson tasks, it was a good incentive to get our work done quickly. We all used the laptops in the English room.

THE AMAZING RACE

Joet Collier - Year 9
– Wagga Wagga, NSW

The Amazing race was held on one Saturday in February. We were split into three teams of at least 9 girls. The race started with an obstacle arranged by boarding staff member Naomi who put big yellow cones in front of all the buses. After the instructions, we ran from the rec room to the buses. Shantay got on the wrong bus so our teams name was FINDING SHANTAY! On the way to the city there were little challenges, such as take a photo of a red car, a golden arch and a driver picking their nose! We started at Fitzroy gardens and had to find places round the garden’s grounds. All the teams went to at least 5 different locations.

Our team was the winning team. The girls in this group were; Joet (me), Cody, Hayley, Evangelina, Cordelia, Cerona, Shantay, Rikaya and Shirelle. Our supervising staff member was Glenda. We were the last team to arrive at Carlton Gardens but we got the most correct answers so we ended up with the highest point score. Our prize for winning was a trip the Chirnside Park Cinema, to go watch a movie of our choice. We selected ‘Puss in Boots The Last Wish’. We also got to go out for dinner at The Groove Train restaurant. We went with Tanya (head of boarding) and she brought us pizza, nachos, hot chips and drinks. It was a great experience.

ST HUBERTS ART GALLERY

Suassanna Cronin – Year 7 – Wadeye, NT

On the first of March 2023 during our period 5 and 6 project class; students from Cumbungi and Baggup went on an excursion to St Hubert's Art Gallery. This gallery displays many Aboriginal art pieces from all over Australia.

As we entered the dome-shaped building, our eyes were captured by walls covered with canvases splashed with vibrant coloured paints, swished around in the most magnificent patterns; stripes, circles, and more.

Each one with a story to tell, either of the past, the present, or sometimes even the future.

A painting that really caught a few eyes was by Aboriginal woman Athena. The painting was about the Seven Sisters dreaming which is also the constellation called Taurus. This isn't about the zodiac sign called Taurus, it is about the seven stars in the Taurus constellation and how these stars were once seven sisters.

Many Aboriginal artists from different communities or towns have famous paintings hung up on these walls. Some even being acknowledged by famous actor Leonardo DiCaprio!

This gallery has been a good addition to Melbourne, having not been open for very long. Hopefully with time it will gain more recognition. We recommend anyone reading this visits the gallery!



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KEEPING UP WITH THE WORAWA STUDENT

'Worawa Student' is now on Instagram. Follow our account for weekly updates on life at Worawa.



DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP IN PATHWAYS TO WOMANHOOD

Every Wednesday this Term the Pathways to Womanhood class participated in a Leadership Program jointly run with Haileybury College. Students participated in a range of activities which culminated in achievement of the following outcomes:

- Understanding types of leadership & role models
- Team building
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Planning for an event
- Running an event

Students' recognised personal development in a range of areas including; leadership, teamwork, communication, confidence, planning and organizing, and instructing. The program culminated in students conducting 30-minute lessons for

Grade 4 students at Haileybury College in Keysborough. Worawa students separated into three groups, with each group selecting a unique lesson focus. These included teaching Aboriginal art, basketball skills, and fundamental games. The students demonstrated excellent leading and teaching skills and had fun doing running their classes. The teacher's from Haileybury were impressed with the lesson preparation, teaching and student engagement skills demonstrated by Worawa students and the Grade 4 children really enjoyed the unique lessons.

Debutante Dreaming
Friday 25th August 2023

SAVE THE DATE



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Worawa Aboriginal College Ltd [ACN: 133 752 397, ABN: 18 371 286 615] Worawa Aboriginal College is recognised by the ATO as a Public Benevolent Institution, a Tax Concession Charity and is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

For more information visit worawa.vic.edu.au