



# NEWSLETTER

Term 1, 2022

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



## Holding Onto Culture

Culture is at the core of all that we present to our students. Our College values of Relationship, Responsibility, Respect and Rigour underpin College operations. Each day commences with recognition of Creator Spirits and Traditional Owners of Country and the poem, Spiritual Song of the Aborigine, written by College Founder Hyllus Maris which states, "I am a Child of the Dreamtime People".

At the end of each term, we honour the land and continuity of cultural practice through a day of student-led cultural activities giving recognition and support of cultural identity of each and every student which confirms and connects students to each other. Students share food, song, dance and display the markings of their language group/ clan through face paint. The uniqueness of each girl is fostered as she explores her own identity through cultural practices.

See images from our Term 1 Culture Day event on the next two pages.

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# Culture Day Term 1





For more information visit [worawa.vic.edu.au](http://worawa.vic.edu.au)



# We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

## TAKING CHARGE OF OUR HEALTH

Our holistic approach to Education integrating Culture, Health and Wellbeing is an important aspect of the Worawa Way. It has been wonderful to return to our busy onsite Health program this Term. Students engaged with a variety of medical professionals who diligently provided excellent health care and health education.

The Get Well Clinic in Healesville attend onsite every Thursday with both Doctor Miriam and Nurse Mandy in attendance. It has been great having Miriam and Mandy getting to know the girls. We look forward to their continued care and support throughout 2022.

Throughout the Term EACH (Eastern Access Community Health) has also been onsite to provide dental

assessments and treatment three times a week. They are making their way through our student list, to ensure that all students have had dental checks and that any required dental work is undertaken. Eastern Health and the Aboriginal Health Team with Audiology Australia also visited this term to undertake hearing checks and audiology support.

In March we welcomed back the Healthy Heart team from the Monash Children's Hospital led by Dr Ari Horton and a team of cardiologists and clinicians who work specifically in screening children to ensure they have a healthy heart. Each student had a recording of their heart's electrical signals (ECG) and an ultrasound video of their heart (echocardiogram). The specialist children's heart doctor Dr Ari Horton

then met with each student to explain the results and a letter explaining the results was sent to the parent/ carer and the local community health service. We thank Dr Ari and his team for this great service - providing education on Rheumatic Heart Disease and screening students for early detection of possible heart health issues.

Students learnt about their heart health and some helped to design a 'heart scrub' - the smock used by the Monash Health team in hospital. The team love visiting Worawa and showed great care and sensitivity in both screening and educating the students about RHD. 'TAKE HEART- DEADLY HEART' is a new documentary worth watching to hear more about what is being done to both prevent and treat RHD in Australia.





## SOVEREIGN HILL EXCURSION

At Worawa we aim to develop students to walk in two worlds with confidence in who they are as young Aboriginal women. Our Humanities curriculum provides a great opportunity to explore and discuss the intricacies and unique student perspectives of what walking in two worlds can mean. This Term, students studied a core component of the ACARA Curriculum, the Australian Gold Rush.

Students learnt about timelines, key dates and people through an over-arching lens of the Aboriginal perspective and the specific impacts felt by the Wadawurrung People as their Country was overtaken by gold rush fever. To enhance their learning, and provide a sense of the place and Country they were researching, students in year 7 – 10 visited Sovereign Hill for a day.

Students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in a replica of 1850s era Ballarat including the experience of panning for gold and walking through an underground gold mine. The day was rounded up with an education session on the cultural and environmental impacts on the region. This was particularly pertinent as we had studied

the degradation of the land and how this impacted the Wadawurrung People. The day was a wonderful experience and all students reported that they had an excellent time. Although it was universally agreed that we do not want to return to the mindset or lifestyle of 1850's Ballarat!



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## CONTINUING THE NARRATIVE

At Worawa the Arts program is a means by which continuing the narrative is upheld through

Dance, Music, Visual Arts, IT / media studies and photography. All of these elements will be brought together in an all student film production of *The Sapphires*.

*The Sapphires* is based on true experiences of young women from a Yorta Yorta family whose ancestral homeland is the Cumeragunja Aboriginal Reserve on the banks of the Murray River. A number of former Cumeragunja residents are noted for a number of remarkable achievements in Aboriginal activism, cultural heritage, education, sport and the arts. These matters are proudly remembered elements of the cultural history of the Yorta Yorta today. The love of music transcended the hardship experienced by families, concerts, choirs and talent quests and sporting competition were a means of income generation when Aboriginal people were unable to find steady employment. This was the starting point for the *Sapphires* story – the love of music and commitment to Aboriginal advancement and social justice took the *Sapphires* to Vietnam to perform for the troops.

The 2022 *Sapphires* Production, will be produced in the newly appointed Worawa Production Studio for which we wish to acknowledge the support of the Asia Australia Foundation. We are pleased to announce our leads who have begun the hard work of learning the songs and the scripts. Congratulations to the following students: Teigan Ricky who will play Julie, Katiana Zboril who will play Kaye, Joyce Palipuaminni who will play Cynthia, Sylvia-Rose Yunupingu who will play Gail and Jakarly Firebrace who will play Dave.

## SCHOOL CULTURAL EXCHANGE

During the Term, 12 Worawa girls initiated an introduction to Worawa for a group of students from Mary Immaculate College in Fitzroy. This will become an ongoing Cultural Exchange with a return visit to Fitzroy in Term 2. As part of the day the students from Worawa each presented on an Aboriginal Change Maker represented on the Worawa History Walk. The exchange was extremely successful and the Worawa students had an excellent time making new connections. Below are some reflections from two of our students who participated in the day.

My presentation was on Sir Douglas Nicholls and I think I presented my speech pretty well. Mary Immaculate enjoyed it. Before they came, I felt nervous and thought they'd be different to us, but they were actually very nice and talkative. We did dancing together, had morning tea and lunch. We also walked along the Dreaming Trail and had a smoking ceremony with Aunty Zeta. My favourite part of the day was meeting new people and making new friends. When we go to Fitzroy I would enjoy going and seeing around the school. Some of the girls said they could take us into town and take us to their favourite places.

### Neveah – Year 9 Kombadik Student


I did my presentation on Captain Reg Saunders. The girls found it interesting and enjoyed my facts on him. At first I thought the girls from Mary Immaculate were going to be posh but after I met them they were actually really funny and nice. We went through the Dreaming Trail and had a smoking ceremony with Aunty Zeta. Mr T taught us about the history of Coranderrk. We had lunch and got to know each other then danced. I can't wait to see the girls again and laugh with them and see the chapel at their school.

### Myra-Lee – Year 9 Kombadik Student

## YOORROOK COMMISSIONERS VISIT WORAWA

We were pleased to welcome the Yoorrook Justice Commissioners on the first of their community visits around the state. The Yoorrook Justice Commission is the first formal truth-telling process into historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria. The Yoorrook Commission comprises Professor Eleanor Bourke Chair, Dr Wayne Atkinson, Distinguished Professor Maggie Walter, Ms Sue-Anne Hunter and Professor the Honourable Kevin Bell AM QC. The Commission will hear stories and gather information from First Peoples in Victoria on their experience of past and ongoing injustices and how their cultures and knowledge has survived.





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## SPORT AND RECREATION

We are in the process of expanding our VET program to meet the growing needs and interests of our students. In Term 1 students welcomed the inclusion of a Certificate II in Sport and Recreation and Certificate II in Kitchen Operations. During Term 2 we will also be adding a bespoke Certificate II in our Cadet Ranger Program which is being developed in partnership with Swinburne University.

Our Certificate II in Sport and Recreation class got straight into the hands on learning experiences and organized a basketball tournament that ran on Friday afternoons. The girls separated their peers into five teams, each named after an NBA team, with a member of the Sport and Rec class leading each team. Sport and Rec students also directed the scoring and time keeping during the games. After three rounds of finals the Lakers won the grand final defeating the Heat. To celebrate the end of a successful

competition and student led initiative, each team chose a Most Valuable Player (MVP). The MVP's for each team were: Lakers – Noelissa, Heat – Shakira, Celtics - Ceronia, Raptors – Shai Cody and Bulls – Geraldine.

Students from the Sport and Rec class also supported seven of their peers as they participated in the Indigenous Basketball Australia tournament for U14's held in Bendigo. The tournament was a fantastic experience for the seven entrants as well as the Sport and Rec students who offered coaching, wellbeing and logistical support. From the tournament we had three students selected into the Victorian State Team. Noelissa, Kady and Joy will participate in the Indigenous Basketball Australia National Tournament held on the Gold Coast over the holidays. Congratulations to all.

## RECORDING ARTIST ISAIAH FIREBRACE VISITS WORAWA

In Term one we were delighted to welcome Yorta Yorta and Gunditjamarra recording artist Isaiah Firebrace back to Worawa. During a workshop with students Isaiah shared his story and spoke about challenges that he overcame to be one of Australia's most recognised recording artists. Students joined Isaiah as he performed "It's Gotta Be You" and other favourites. Isaiah echoed a message that is regularly stated at Worawa, 'No Shame'. Students were proud to have Isaiah join with them as they sang 'Burra Ferra' in the Yorta Yorta language.



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# Reconciliation Sports Carnival

## Tuesday 31 May 2022



Girls  
Football  
Round  
Robin



### Reconciliation Sports Carnival

The Worawa Reconciliation Sports Carnival will be held on Tuesday 31 May from 9.15am – 2.30pm. A fun day that encourages sport, cultural and social exchange between all participants.

#### Highlights Include:

- Traditional Smoking Ceremony
- Footy competition for the Louisa Briggs Memorial Trophy
- Netball Round Robin
- Special Guest Appearances
- Longest Kick Competition
- Worawa AFL Umpire Academy
- Traditional Indigenous Games
- Basketball 3 X 3
- Beach volleyball
- Local country music band Ruckus
- Dance Party with Mr Congo

The main event will be an all-female AFL football game between the winners of four schools. A formal presentation ceremony is held to present the winning teams with the sought after trophies and all participants receive a medal. This event brings together a number of schools in the true spirit of Reconciliation. We do hope that you are able to join us.

**BE BRAVE. MAKE CHANGE.**

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022

27 MAY – 3 JUNE 2022 #NRW2022

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