



NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 2024

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



Reconciliation Sports Carnival

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Sports Carnival

On Tuesday, 28th May, Worawa Aboriginal College came alive with spirit and enthusiasm as we hosted our annual Reconciliation Sports Carnival. This special event marked a significant moment in our school calendar, acknowledging and celebrating reconciliation with over 600 students from 22 different schools.

Students had the opportunity to engage in various sporting activities,

including football, basketball, netball, volleyball, and cross country. Each game and race inspired teamwork and sportsmanship. For many, the highlight of the day was not just the competitions but also the chance to connect and build friendships.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all the students and supervising teachers who contributed to the spirit of reconciliation, creating a positive

atmosphere of camaraderie enjoyed by all. We would also like to acknowledge and express our gratitude to the volunteers and staff whose efforts ensured the smooth running of the day.

Looking ahead, anticipation for next year's carnival is already building. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for our 2025 Reconciliation Sports Carnival!





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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we come to the end of Term 2, it's a pleasure to reflect on what has been a busy and rewarding time for the College. The highlight on our calendar was the Reconciliation Sports Carnival, and what a fantastic day it was. We were thrilled to have so many of our partner schools in attendance, making it a day of unity, competition, and celebration of reconciliation. It was truly a memorable event for all involved.

Our choir has been hard at work, preparing for our upcoming school production set for Term 3. In the meantime, they've been making us proud with their recent performances

at the Asian Australia Foundation Annual Dinner and the Shrine of Remembrance as part of the Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service. On both occasions, they did a wonderful job, showcasing their talent and dedication.

This term has also been filled with a variety of incursions and excursions, providing our students with enriching opportunities to experience and enjoy. From educational trips to cultural experiences, it's been a great term of growth and learning.

We look forward to even more exciting developments next term!

SAVE THE DATE

27

MAY 2025

Reconciliation
Sports Carnival



WORAWA CHOIR

Our journey to the Shrine has seen significant musical development. We began the year with drama games, folk songs, and Kodaly songs. The girls quickly learned to understand the relationships between notes in melodies and harmonies. They practised an old Italian style routine, focusing on support, vibrance, and breath control.

In Term 2, we added pianist Dean Sky Lucas, an expert in youth choir education. Dean recorded his piano parts in our studio, allowing the girls to learn their parts with a backing track. Each class recorded their part, resulting in a complex arrangement of "Ngarra Burra Ferra" with four different

parts. Weekly performances at our Monday Assembly have significantly boosted the girls' confidence and vocal development. On 22 May, they performed at the Asia Australia Foundation Annual dinner, achieving a significant milestone through exceptional presentation.

On Friday, 31 May, our girls performed at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne for the Victorian Aboriginal Remembrance Service. Invited by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet of Victoria, they sang "Spiritual Song of the Aborigine," "Ngarra Burra Ferra," and "Maranoa Lullaby."

Aunty Lois, alongside Klarissa and Aleta, laid a wreath in honour of

the First Peoples' men and women who served in wars to protect their Country. The choir's beautiful presentation was well-received.

Shirley delivered a moving rendition of "A Spiritual Song of the Aborigine," followed by Sanna leading the choir through the "Maranoa Lullaby." The choir's performance of "Ngarra Burra Ferra" in four-part harmony was powerful and moving. The girls should be proud of their strength and spirit in honouring the First Nations People who fought for Australia.

Student Articles Term 2

WINTER OLYMPICS

Joet

On Thursday, 2 May, Shirley, Klarissa, Carol, and I accompanied Tanya Peeler and Tanya Ferguson to South Bank. We arrived at O'Brien Icehouse, where the cold air was biting. We were greeted with name tags and gathered on level two. Shirley delivered the Acknowledgment of Country, followed by Tanya Peeler's speech about Worawa, which filled me with pride. The sessions were informative, and I took many notes, especially during the discussion on nutrition. After lunch, we tried curling and ice skating, which was a fun experience.



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Image credit: Enchanted Adventure

EXCURSIONS

By Aleta

On Monday, 27 May, we visited the Enchanted Gardens in Arthur's Seat. The high ropes course was fun for most girls, but I found it scary. I enjoyed the tube sliding the most. It was a long journey, but the girls supported each other, making it a positive experience.

By Nekisha

Last Monday, we went to the Enchanted Garden in Arthur's Seat. The bus ride took two hours, and we enjoyed scenic views along the way. We wore safety gear for the high ropes course, which was scary but fun. My favourite part was the level three course with a skateboard at the end. After high ropes, we went tube sliding, had lunch, and explored the maze, playing games and having fun.



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TRADE EXPO

By Kerissa

On Wednesday, 8 May 2024, the Polango, Kombidik, and Baggup classes attended the Trade Expo at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. I went to explore potential career paths, especially in carpentry. The Expo offered various career opportunities, and I learned about the skills and knowledge needed in carpentry, including apprenticeships, which take 3-4 years. I discovered that carpenters in Australia can earn between \$40,000 and \$90,000 annually. I am excited about the hands-on nature of carpentry and the potential for a good income.



CULTURE DAY

By Chrystal

This term we did something different for culture day. We went to the local zoo to see totem animals. We had seen a dingo and eagle. We then went back to school where we had lunch with the whole school.

I enjoyed eating the Wallaby stew.



T-SHIRT DESIGN

By Lulu

On Tuesday 28th of May 2024 we held a Reconciliation Sports Carnival. Held on the school grounds of Worawa Aboriginal College in Healesville, students and staff celebrated Reconciliation Week with 22 other schools from around Victoria.

Every year we create a T-shirt design to wear & sell on the day. This year my art design was chosen. The meaning of my design was 'People coming together on the day, playing different sports.'

It was a beautiful day and we had so much fun playing sports: football, basketball, netball, volleyball & cross-country. I participated in basketball.

We ended that day with a dance party and celebrated the winners, runner's up, and Best on Ground. It was a fantastic way to celebrate Reconciliation Week!

MELBOURNE ZOO LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Early in Term 2, two of our Year 9-10 Science students were selected to participate in Zoos Victoria's Youth Leadership program. Our Worawa students had the opportunity to develop practical science skills while building their leadership abilities in a collaborative group setting. Guided by Zoos Victoria mentors, they were supported in undertaking a science research project aimed at informing a wildlife conservation initiative, nurturing their learning and deepening their connection to caring for Country.

Student Alexis' Account of the program

Day 1: The first day saw us get to know one another and take the time to connect to wildlife at the zoo. We met Jenny Gray, who leads Zoos Victoria and then thought about what leadership means to us. We then took up the challenge to Race Around the Zoo, collecting clues and working together to solve puzzles. We finished the day

with a talk about animal experiences, animal welfare and Zoos Victoria's policies on these issues with Amy-Rose and Michelle.

Day 2: Despite the cold morning, we logged in at the zoo and met graduates from the previous year's program. We learned about different animals and discussed the next part of the program at Healesville Sanctuary. I am excited to learn more about the Leadbeater possum and other animals, including rats and goannas.

Graduation: On the 12th of June myself and Hayley Graduated from the Leadership program. We are incredibly proud to be able to participate in Zoos Victoria 2024 Youth Leadership Program this term! Over 11 days of fieldwork, workshops, and hands-on activities, we worked alongside mentors from Zoos Victoria, engaging in real-life conservation initiatives.



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BOARDING

This term has been exceptionally exciting and busy! Our boarders have engaged in a variety of activities to keep them entertained over the weekends. The footy season is in full swing, with many of our boarders joining the local Healesville team in the under-14 and under-16 age groups. With training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday nights, their hard work has paid off with wins in recent Sunday games. The season continues into next term, and we eagerly anticipate seeing them back on the field!

Connection to culture is a vital part of life at Worawa. This term, our boarders participated in numerous activities that reinforced this connection. They were invited to see the Victorian Theatre production Wadawurrung Lifts the Sky by

Deborah Cheetham. After the show, they had the opportunity to meet some cast members, including Aboriginal soprano singer Sarah Prestwidge, who played Parrwang. Additionally, the boarders visited Gumbuya World, a local waterpark featuring a light show called Gumbuya Dreaming, produced by Yarnology and led by Indigenous artist Wayne Quilliam. The show highlighted reflection and connection, storytelling traditions, and the wonders of nature through First Nations' stories.

A highlight of the term was the Dreamtime game. Each week, an instructor visited Worawa to deliver an umpiring course, equipping the boarders with knowledge of AFL rules and umpiring skills. As part of this program, they tested their newfound knowledge at the MCG during

halftime of the Dreamtime matches on both Saturday and Sunday. All the boarders attended the Dreamtime matches, including the Long Walk before Saturday's game. The umpiring crew showcased their skills during a mini-match with the Auskick teams at halftime, impressing the large crowd and earning cheers from their fellow boarders in the stands.

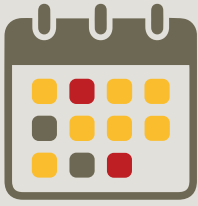
As we approached the end of the term, we had a visit from Willowra School. While the girls who are interested in attending Worawa had a school tour, the boys enjoyed a footy match with our boarders on the oval. The Willowra students stayed for dinner, and we were proud to see our boarders warmly welcoming the visitors, helping them feel at home during the meal.



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TERM 3 CALENDAR

DATES TO REMEMBER

Its time to shine on stage,
Our 2024 Production is
nearly here.

- ▶ **START OF TERM**
17th of July
- ▶ **PRODUCTION**
3rd September
- ▶ **MUSIC COMPETITION**
South Street
6th September
- ▶ **CULTURE DAY**
8th September
- ▶ **FLY HOME**
19th September

NEW ADDITION TO OUR TEAM

Ryan

Hello! I am thrilled to join Worawa Aboriginal College. I come from the Yuin Nation on the Far South Coast of NSW and completed my Master of Teaching (Secondary) at the University of Wollongong in 2021. My journey in balancing Western education with Indigenous culture has shaped my passion for Indigenous education.

I was drawn to Worawa's holistic approach, blending academic rigour with cultural empowerment. As the Humanities Teacher, I aim to integrate Indigenous perspectives into the curriculum, celebrating cultural heritage while fostering academic success. I look forward to contributing to our students' social, emotional, physical, spiritual, cultural, and academic development. I am excited to collaborate with the Worawa team to make a positive impact in our students' lives.



Donations Welcomed

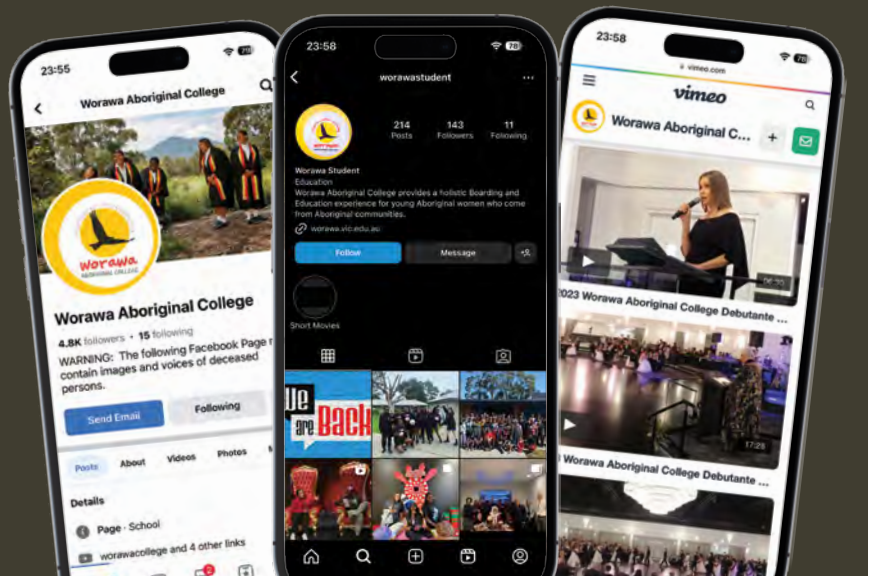
Worawa needs your help to provide resources and facilities for our students as well as for the much needed renovation of buildings and facilities.

Support our School



Find us on social media

Stay up to date with everything happening at
Worawa by following us on social media!
We are on Facebook, Instagram and Vimeo.



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