



# NEWSLETTER

Term 3, 2024

*We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing*

## SNOW CAMP AT FALLS CREEK

This term, all students attended snow camp at Falls Creek. For many, it was their first time seeing and experiencing snow, making it a true adventure. Over three days, the camp not only offered exciting outdoor experiences but also challenged the students to embody the Worawa values of Relationship, Responsibility, Respect, and Rigour.



# We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Reflecting on Term 3, it's clear that this has been a busy and exciting term, with a strong focus on the arts, offering students a variety of enriching experiences.

Our school production, *Home Away from Home*, was the highlight of the term, showcasing the incredible talents and dedication of our students. We were also fortunate to have Artist in Residence Emma Stenhouse join us for a week, providing our students with hands-on artistic learning that further deepened their engagement with creative expression.

In addition, students enjoyed excursions to see the renowned Indigenous dance group, Bangarra, and the musical theatre production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

These activities have given students the opportunity to explore their artistic abilities and connect with the broader arts community. As we move into the final term of the year, we look forward to continuing this momentum and seeing further growth and achievement from our students.

**Tanya Peeler**

Executive Director/Principal



## NEW COLLEGE AMBASSADORS

**Dr. Tui Crumpen (BA Hons, MHSS, PhD)**

Dr. Tui Crumpen, a proud Torres Strait Islander and alumna of Worawa Aboriginal College, holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne. With 26 years of experience, she has expertise in program delivery, strategic planning, and governance.

Dr. Crumpen is the founder of Mopas Consultancy and previously served as Director of the Kaiela Institute. She leads the Mook Mook Project, focused on shared prosperity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and has been a dedicated contributor to the Rumbalara Football Netball Club for over 20 years.



**Madi Colville Walker**

Madi Colville Walker, a proud Yorta Yorta woman, is an inspiring musician who began her career at the Tamworth CMAA Junior Academy in 2017. She has performed on prestigious stages across Australia and collaborated with renowned artists like Uncle Archie Roach, Isaiah Firebrace, and Alice Skye.

In 2023, Madi received the Uncle Archie Roach Foundation Award at the National Indigenous Music Awards. Deeply connected to her community, she draws inspiration from her family and the organisations supporting her musical journey.



## WORAWA RECEIVES GENEROUS BICYCLE DONATION FROM VARIETY

We are thrilled to share that Worawa was generously gifted bicycles from Variety, along with helmets and water bottles, much to the excitement of our students. These bikes were thoughtfully built by MRP Wired Solutions and delivered to us by Dallas Group Self Storage, marking a special moment for the school community.

In addition to receiving the bikes, our students will participate in the Bike2Ride program. Through this initiative, they will learn how to ride and maintain their bicycles, as well as gain valuable knowledge about road safety. The program is designed to equip our girls with the confidence and skills to enjoy cycling while staying safe and

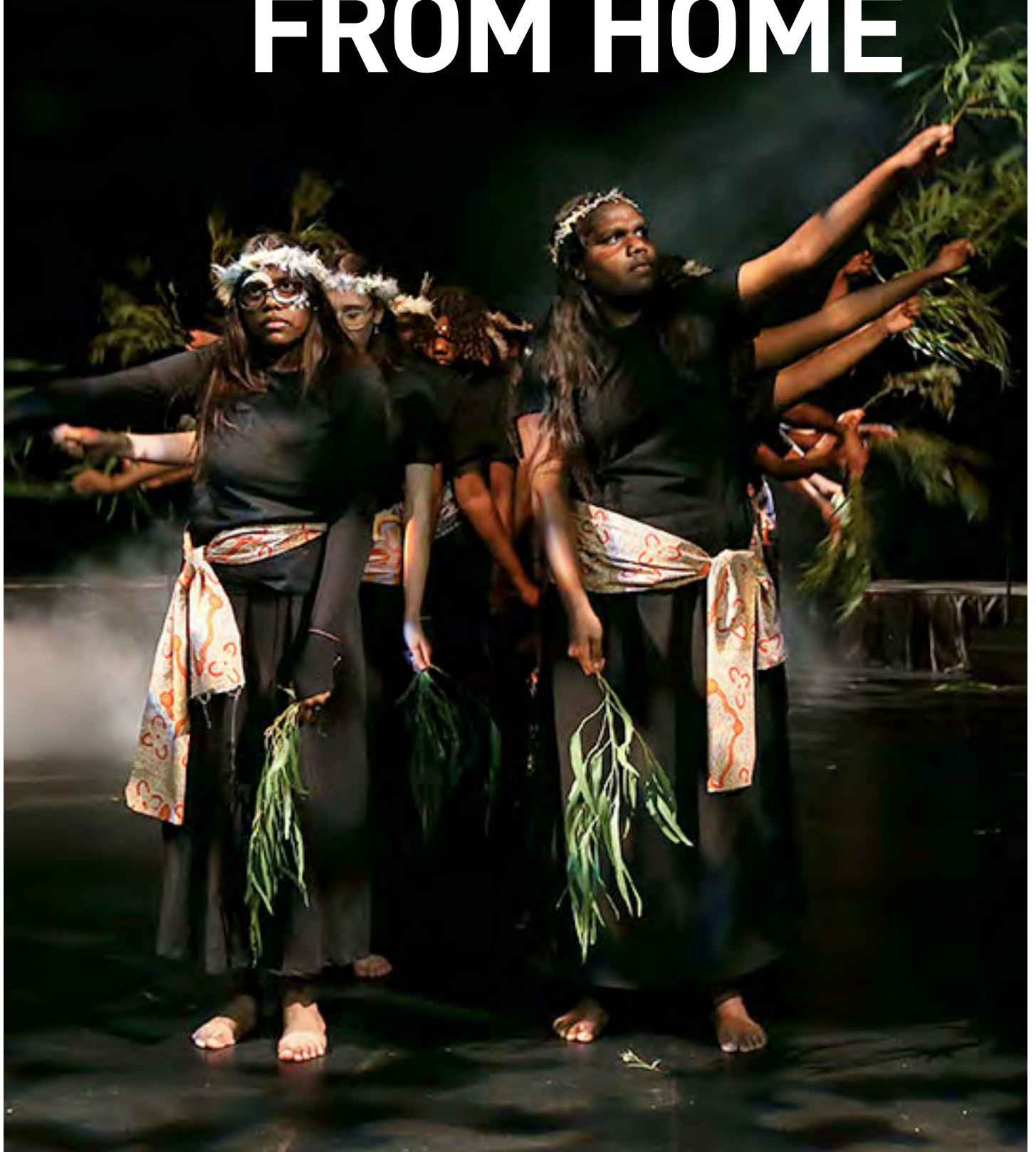
informed about responsible riding practices.

We are excited to see the students embrace these new opportunities, and we look forward to integrating cycling into their recreational activities as part of promoting an active and healthy lifestyle at Worawa.



We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

# HOME AWAY FROM HOME





## SCHOOL PRODUCTION: HOME AWAY FROM HOME – A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

This term, Worawa proudly showcased its much-anticipated school production, Home Away from Home. The performance was a stunning display of our students' creative talents, seamlessly blending storytelling, music, and dance.

We were honoured to have singer Madi Colville-Walker, a College Ambassador and proud Yorta Yorta woman, join the students on stage for a moving performance. Her guidance

and encouragement throughout the rehearsal process inspired the girls, helping to calm their nerves and instilling a sense of pride in their performances. Madi's presence added a unique touch to the night, making her contributions one of the many memorable moments of the production.

This production was enriched by the support of our new Arts programs, including the introduction of music.

The students' confidence and creativity have flourished, and Home Away from Home beautifully reflected their hard work and passion.

We are immensely proud of our students for their commitment to this production, and we eagerly anticipate their continued growth as artists and performers in the future.



# We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

## HEALTH PROGRAMS UPDATE

This term has been a busy one for Worawa's health programs. In addition to our regular weekly visits from the local doctor and nurses, students also had assessments from the Australian College of Optometry and the Yarra Ranges Immunisation Program.

For the first time, we introduced two new health education and awareness programs for our students. Courtney and Leticia from Djirra spent a day with us to run their Young Luv Program, which is designed specifically for young Aboriginal women. The program focuses on building healthy relationships grounded in respect, self-esteem,

and confidence in their identity, while celebrating the strength of their cultural heritage.

We also launched Understanding Our Bodies, a tailored program led by Dr Steph and Dr Jaimi from Women's Health, Yarra Valley. Over five weeks, students learned about how their bodies function throughout the different stages of the month. The program also introduced Pilates stretches and gentle movement exercises, along with healthy alternatives for sweet or savoury cravings.





## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE: EMMA STENHOUSE

During Term 2, Worawa students were fortunate to take part in the Artist in Residence program, led by Ngarrindjeri artist Emma Stenhouse. Emma, an accomplished artist, designer, weaver, printmaker, and sewist, is known for her stunning work, which is showcased nationally, including her décor range available at Myer department stores. She shared her expertise in a variety of printmaking techniques, including lino, botanical, and gel plate printing. Her art, inspired by nature and connection to Country, captivated students, who eagerly embraced the creative challenges she set.

Throughout the week, Emma not only taught new techniques but also shared her artistic journey, inspiring students to embrace their own stories. Her supportive and encouraging approach ensured every student experienced success, and she generously extended learning opportunities to staff as well.

Emma, the niece of Aunty Glenda Nicholls—last year's Artist in Residence—made a lasting impact in just one week. We are thankful of her time she spent with us.



## Student Voices



### Artist in Residence Reflection

– Erin, Year 10, Ti Tree, NT

Emma Stenhouse came to Worawa Aboriginal College from the 26th August to the 30th August, she was with us for the week in all of our Art classes and Art Club. Emma is a full time Artist and goes around to different schools and organisations teaching people about Culture and her art.

Emma taught us how to do different prints using lino squares, jelly pads and press printing using nature. My favourite part of doing these activities was the lino printing. We had to choose a design, draw or trace it on tracing paper, then use some transfer

paper to go over it again so it would show up on the lino square. We had to carve it out to make the print. We then used some special paint and rolled it on, only using a thin layer and laid the paper on top. We had to press down hard but be gentle as well to get a good print.

My most favourite part was showing Emma the phone case I was designing. I coloured it in using different shades of blue, because blue is one of my favourite colours. Emma got my design printed on to an actual phone case for me! I really liked getting to know Emma. She was really nice, kind and caring. I also liked getting to learn new things and different styles of art.

### Book week

– Anastasia, Year 8, Elliott, NT

Book week was from the 17th to the 23rd of August.

All the students had a competition for which students could read the most books in a month and which class could read the most books. I was thinking to myself that Baggup was not going to win but they did! They read 127 books!

The most books were read by Kyeisha from Polango, she read 42 books!

We designed posters for the library using the Book Week theme "Reading is Magic!" I drew my brother playing football, but he was not kicking a football, he was kicking a book and on it said: "Football is life."

On the Friday of book week, we dressed up as our favourite book or movie characters and our teacher John was taking photos of us in

costumes. Latisha won best costume; she was a ninja.

My character was Sam Kerr but I was not wearing a yellow shirt because I could not find one. Instead, I wore a blue shirt and attached personalised numbers for myself.

My favourite costume was Hayley's costume. She was dressed up as the Queen of Hearts.

It was a fantastic day and week!



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



## WORAWA STUDENTS EXPERIENCE BANGARRA'S HORIZON

Recently, Worawa students had the amazing opportunity to attend Bangarra Dance Theatre's Horizon at the Melbourne Arts Centre. The performance celebrated the resilience of the First Peoples of the Oceania region, spanning Australia, the Torres Strait Islands, and Aotearoa.

The students were mesmerised by the stunning choreography and powerful storytelling, which explored the deep connection between land, sky, and spirit. For

many, it was their first time seeing professional Indigenous dance, and it sparked discussions on culture, identity, and the importance of storytelling.

This experience left a lasting impression on the students, reinforcing the value of cultural expression and the strength of our heritage.

Image credit: Daniel Boud, Arts Centre Melbourne

## SENIOR STUDENTS ATTEND PERFORMANCE OF THREE MAGPIES PERCHED IN A TREE AT MONASH

This term, our senior girls had the unique opportunity to attend the performance of Three Magpies Perched in a Tree at Monash University. The production was a thought-provoking, mature show that touched on many issues faced by Indigenous communities. It offered our students a meaningful and powerful experience, sparking reflection on topics close to home.

After the performance, the lead actor graciously came out to meet the girls, giving them a chance to discuss the performance and gain deeper insight into the story. We were also thrilled to be joined by Kylie Belling, an icon in

Indigenous theatre, and we all took a group photo together to commemorate the day.

Following the performance, we gathered for a yarn about the themes explored in the play. The students shared their thoughts and perspectives on the issues presented, and it was wonderful to hear how much they enjoyed and valued this experience. This outing not only deepened their understanding of theatre but also offered them a space to reflect on the broader social challenges affecting our communities.

# We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing

## SNOW CAMP AT FALLS CREEK

This term, all students attended snow camp at Falls Creek. For many, it was their first time seeing and experiencing snow, making it a true adventure. Over three days, the camp not only offered exciting outdoor experiences but also challenged the students to embody the Worawa values of Relationship, Responsibility, Respect, and Rigour.

### Wednesday: Arrival and Cross-Country Skiing

After settling in on Wednesday, both staff and students took to the slopes for cross-country skiing. Guided by experienced instructors, the girls steadily developed their skills, pushing themselves to keep going despite the frequent falls. Klarissa from Year 12 noted that each time they got back up, was lesson in perseverance.

That evening, the students bonded over a fun-filled "Minute to Win It" game show, followed by a cosy movie night with snacks and face masks. While the junior students headed to bed, our Year 11 and 12 girls enjoyed a magical night walk, marvelling at the star-filled sky.

### Thursday: Snow Fun and Teamwork

Thursday began with a hearty cooked breakfast, energising everyone for a full day of snow adventures. The girls

embraced the free play on the slopes, with Tilly from Year 7 sharing her excitement about sliding down Drovers Run. Juran, also in Year 7, loved reuniting with friends at the top of the hill to share in the joy of sliding down together.

In the afternoon, the students built a snowman village and engaged in a lively snowball fight. Eunice from Year 10 expressed gratitude for the teamwork and careful attention required to build their snowmen.

### Friday: Final Adventure and Homeward Bound

Friday marked the final day of camp, with one last trip to the top of the slopes. The girls made the most of their last moments in the snow before heading home. On the way back, we stopped in Harrietville for hot chocolate and chips, the perfect end to an unforgettable adventure.

Throughout the camp, the students not only developed new skills but also built confidence, adapted to challenges, and strengthened their relationships. We are incredibly proud of their resilience and enthusiasm and how they embodied the Worawa values. This snow camp will remain a lasting memory for all who attended.





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



We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing





# Culture Day

Our end-of-term Culture Day was a great success, enjoyed by students, staff, and guests. The day began with the girls painting their faces, a tradition for the event, and offering to paint the faces of our guests as part of their warm welcome to our campus.

We were pleased to have Hawthorn Football Club join us again and, for the first time, Melbourne Football Club.

The events of the day began with a fun scavenger hunt, followed by making damper in the fire pit. The highlight of the day was the surprise gift of bikes from Variety, which absolutely thrilled the girls.

In the afternoon, the students proudly shared their cultural dances with our guests, showcasing their heritage. We all then sat down to a meal prepared by our chefs, enjoying a shared moment of connection. The day ended with the girls riding their new bikes around the campus, bringing the event to a joyful close. Culture Day continues to be a highlight of each term, and this one was no exception.

We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



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



We Believe in Education, Culture + Wellbeing



**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](http://worawa.vic.edu.au)