

## “Connecting with Country”

### Executive Director’s Message *By Edward Tudor*

Over the long weekend a small group of MITS boys headed to Rick and Liz’s bush block at Mount Samaria, near Benalla. For the boys, it was a great opportunity to connect with each other, and with the country. Yabbies were caught and devoured, many cups of tea around the campfire were shared, and a few brave boys even took a refreshing dip in the muddy dam!

It’s clear that all of our students have built, over the past five months, very close connections at MITS. They feel confident, comfortable and safe, both at Lockington and at the Richmond Football Club. They feel a part of their local community, through the Richmond Junior Football Club, at the Rowena Corner Store and as they say hello to neighbours in The Vaucluse. And they feel connected to the land and our shared culture, through the Korin Gamadji Institute and its staff, engagement with local Indigenous people and Elders, and institutions like Bunjilaka at Melbourne Museum.

Beyond MITS, our students’ connection to their families, their cultures and their country will always, and must always, remain strong. And so as we celebrate the end of Term 2, it is time for our students to return home, to relish a long break feeling strong in their culture, and proud of their many achievements in Melbourne.

To our families, we encourage you to celebrate your young people and all that they’ve done over the past two school terms. Ensure that they feel nourished and rejuvenated during their time at home, and ready to tackle another school term. To our students, we say soak up your time at home! Connect with country, community and culture, recharge your batteries, and share your many Melbourne experiences with your family and friends.



### Important Dates

#### July 1

Close of 2018 Enrolment Applications

#### July 2

NAIDOC Week

#### July 23

Students Travel Back to Melbourne for Term 3

### Final Assembly for Term 2 June 8



School Captain, Latoya & RJ  
(assisting for Chris), lead the assembly

## School Report *By Sally Cunningham*

It has been a busy Term 2 in the MITS classroom. The students have been working hard, with many opportunities to extend their learning within the community. A highlight of the term has been our weekly Kinder visits. Students have visited different local and other kindergartens in small groups. The MITS students have gained confidence interacting with others, and practiced their literacy skills whilst working with small groups of children. They have learned a lot and built relationships with people from different cultural backgrounds. Students also modified a sports game in PE, to teach to their kinder kids.

In the classroom, students have been learning about Area and Perimeter in Maths and had a fantastic session working on all the different measurements on and around the Punt Road Oval.

In English, we have been studying the novel "Once", by Morris Gleitzman which is set in WW2. This has sparked many discussions, and has been the inspiration for a research project on aspects of World War 2. The students looked into what it would have been like to live through this time.

In History, the students have completed a research project on an influential Aboriginal leader and then presented their projects to the class. In Science, the class has been exploring Space, with many students performing very well on their end-of-unit open-book test.

It has been a very successful term, with many students showing academic progress across all of the curriculum areas. All the staff and volunteers wish the students and their families, a fantastic break at home, and we look forward to you coming back for a strong Premiership Term 3 next term.



## Assembly June 8



**Respect Award – Naomi**  
Presented by Brady Cooper



**Care Award – Kirsty**  
Presented by Sally Cunningham



**Courage Award – Harry**  
Presented by Brad & Levi Carmody

## News from Lockington *By Amanda Haggie*

Lockington has been a hive of activity over the past weeks, including a BBQ for our fantastic volunteers on Mabo Day, to thank them for all their amazing support offered to the MITS community. This was a very enjoyable evening, with some of the most yummy salads we had ever seen, brought along by our guests. A special mention must go to RJ Farnham and Kenita Bush who welcomed our guests and shared the significance and meaning behind Mabo Day. They both spoke clearly and eloquently, showing what great role models they are.



*Amanda, Kate, Kenita & RJ welcome the guests to Lockington*

Just recently we were approached by a representative from the Alannah and Madeline Foundation who are closely affiliated with the Richmond Football Club. This organisation does work across many schools throughout Victoria, in relation to family violence and keeping kids safe. They have offered to come into Lockington to talk about Cyber Safety and Bullying. We are thoroughly looking forward to having input in this area because we know how important it is for our kids to feel secure and safe.

These sessions will sit well with our focus for Term Three which is looking at structure and organisation, and learning to make good choices in terms of behaviour. This is all part of the transition and getting our kids prepared for next year when they move into our partner schools.

During the Queens' Birthday weekend, it was extremely quiet at Lockington with all the boys away for the weekend. One group went home with the Bairnsdale boys and experienced some good old-fashioned fun in country Victoria; hanging out with friends, scootering and testing their skills on a motorised buggy! Apparently, Mr Paul Babui was quite the adventurer. A big thankyou to the Farnham family for hosting this.

## Assembly June 8



**Boarding Award – Albert**  
Presented by Amanda Haggie



**Academic Effort & Excellence Award – Paul**  
Presented by Kathryn Gale

**Congratulations to all students on your hard work!**

The other group of boys were lucky enough to be taken camping by Rick and Liz Tudor to Samaria. Our biggest fear was that the boys would be freezing, so we kitted them out with thermals, puffer jackets and beanies and they went off full of enthusiasm. This is also how they returned, completely exhausted but full of stories about fishing for yabbies, seeing kangaroos and sitting round the campfire.



For the girls it was time to have some much needed down time and to do some activities locally such as a session at Bounce and a road trip out to watch footy in Narre Warren; two of our girls Shaniya Cooper and Latoya Tipiloura were very fortunate enough to be selected for the Yarra Junior Football League Representative Team. It was a great opportunity for us to get out of the city and support our girls.



This last week our focus has been on getting ready for a very well-deserved holiday. Bags are packed, rooms are spic and span ready for a productive and busy term three.

*The long weekend was action packed!  
Students having fun all around Victoria, from the city to the country!*



## Simpson Defence Force Barracks *By Calvin Cook*

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of June we went to the Defence Force Reconciliation Day at the Simpsons Barracks. The MITS students met Steve and Ray first, and they took us for a tour before we went to the Welcome to Country ceremony. Chris and Latoya gave us gum leaves to put in the fire. Other schools were there as well. They were Wesley College and Worawa College. We had a BBQ and then the 4 MITS students whose designs were made into the footy jumpers, got their jumpers. We all got one too. Chris's team won after. The army people let us paint our faces and we sat in the big army truck. After that, we went back to Lockington.



*Chris and Latoya gave out gum leaves, and students attend the Welcome to Country Ceremony.*



*Albert looking deadly wearing camouflage paint!*

# My Footy Jumper Design

By Naomi Gaykamangu

MITS students were invited to help the Defence Force design footy jumpers for their footy teams. Four students' designs were chosen and one of them was mine. When we went to the oval, they called out my name and read about my design on one of the footy team's jumpers.

*"The spirits of the old people are at the top of my design, sitting around the fire. The star at the bottom is our mother star. The white is the river flowing through my country in Arnhem Land. The red is our earth. The tracks of the kangaroo travel on the earth through the red hot desert".*



Calvin, Chris, Naomi & Shaniya, wearing their footy jumper designs

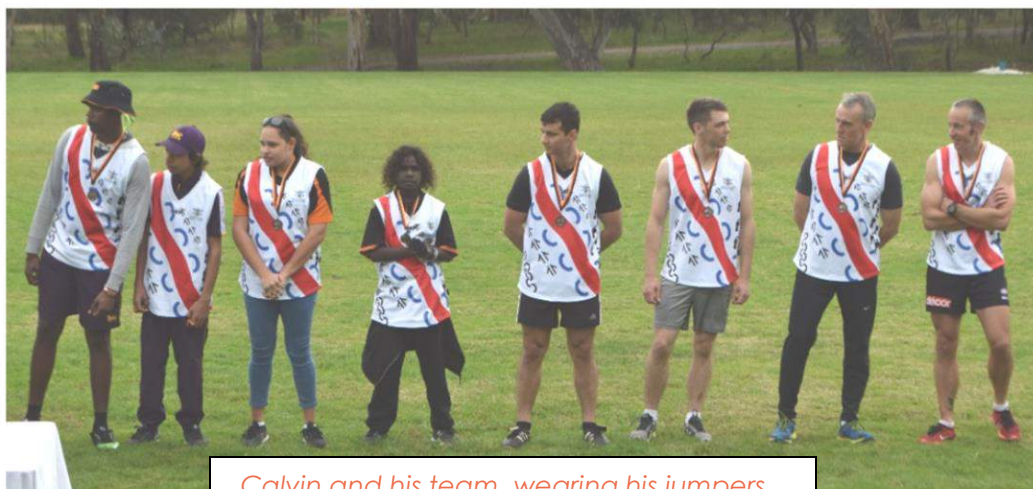


Naomi gives out her jumpers

By Calvin Doolan

My design was chosen to be made into a jumper for one of the teams, along with Naomi, Shaniya and Chris. This is the story of my design.

*"The footprints on my design are of a kangaroo and the aboriginal people walking in my country near Maningrida. The red represents the hunters' spears and the semi-circles are their boomerangs. I am learning to be a hunter too."*



Calvin and his team, wearing his jumpers

## My Footy Jumper Design continued.

By Chris Farnham

MITS students participated in an event held at Simpson's Barracks. We watched the soldiers play AFL 9s. There were four teams and one of the teams wore my design. My team was called Brabralung which I named because that's what clan I'm from. This is about my design:

*"On the shoulder is my clan shield from the Gunai-Kurnai people – my ancestors. Brabralung is one of 5 tribes in Gunai-Kurnai country. The colours at the bottom are red, orange and yellow which stands for the earth, the ground. The black represents the night sky and the blue represents the Mitchell River which flows through Bairnsdale, my home town. The footprints are those of my ancestors."*

My team ended up winning first place and all of them got a trophy and I got one too. I got a photo with my team.



Chris gives out his jumpers



Chris and his winning team



Kydan, Chris, RJ, Harry & Albert wearing Chris's jumper



### Shaniya Cooper's Design

*"At the centre of my design are emu tracks as he travels through his country. On the upper side are long-neck turtle tracks as he looks for water. Red is for the earth and blue is for the water that keeps the emu and the long-neck turtle alive."*

Left: Kirsty, Kenita, Shannon, Nicki & Shaniya, wearing Shaniya's jumper.

## Camping with Rick & Liz *By Bhodi Sharman*

On the Queen's Birthday weekend Wayne, Harry, both the Calvins and I, went camping with Rick and Liz Tudor. We were joined by one of the boys from last year, Edward. We went camping at a place called Samaria. On the first day it was a very long drive which took about four hours. It was a tiring trip and I slept the whole way. When we got there, we had to set up the tent and get all the supplies out of the car. Then we had to dig a hole to go to the toilet. Of course we don't sit on the hole, but we put a hole in the top of a box and sat on the box. Then we set up the fire and the chairs and went to a dam near-by. We set up some lines to catch yabbies. Liz brought some meat and string, so we put the meat on one end and tied the other end to a stick. We put the stick in the ground and the meat in the water. On the last day we caught lots of yabbies. We made a fire and cooked and ate them.

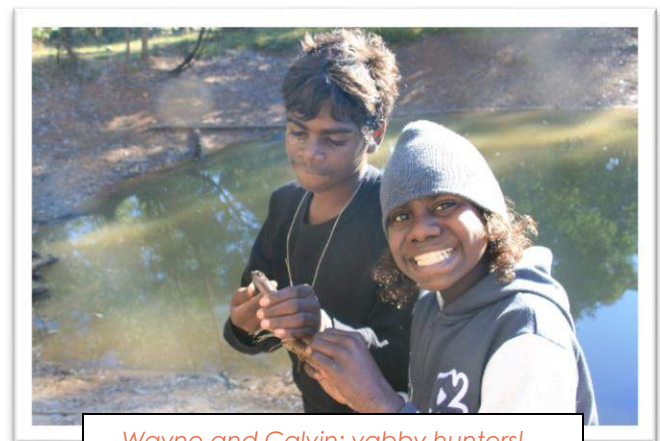
We went for walks around and the boys tried to catch kangaroos. On the second day, we went on a hike up a big mountain. I kept stopping and starting up the mountain. When we go up to the top we had a good feed. It was really worth going up the mountain because the view was amazing. On the way back down, we were stopped by a big red-belly black snake so we went back up and went around it. It was really steep and we kept slipping, but we made it back in one piece. I really enjoyed everything but my favourite thing was going down to the dam and catching yabbies and cooking them.

### *By Wayne Gaden*

On the long weekend we went camping with Rick and Liz, at their farm. We slept in a tent and it was cold outside, but cozy inside. We went fishing for yabbies in the dam. We used meat bones for bate and we caught 7. It was fun. We cooked them on the fire and ate them. We went to the mountains to see the view of another farm. We saw a big black snake on the road and we threw rocks at it but it went away in a log. At night, we went for a walk looking for kangaroos and wombats. We saw lots of kangaroos but not wombats. We wanted to kill them but they were too quick. We had a great weekend with Rick and Liz!



*Catching yabbies and sitting around the camp fire*



*Wayne and Calvin: yabby hunters!*

## Camping with Rick & Liz *By Harry DeSantis*

The MITS boys and Edward went camping with Rick and Liz at a place call Samaria near Benalla. Calvin Cook, Edward and I got in a car with Rick. Wayne, Calvin Doolan and Bhodi got in a car with Liz . We got some food and put it in a trailer. We were driving for four hours and fifteen minutes. When we got there, we set up the tent and then went down to a dam to catch yabbies. The next day when we got up, we had bacon and eggs for breakfast. After that, we went walking up the hills. Edward and I were the first to run up the hill. I saw some deer and we chased after them. When we were walking back down the hill, Rick found a big red-belly black snake. After walking, we went to the dam and caught lots of yabbies. Me, Edward, Wayne and Calvin Cook went swimming in the dam. It was really cold and when we got out, our legs were steaming. We went back to the camp and got changed and had dinner. After dinner, we went looking for wombats with spotlights. I was shining with my torch and I saw deer. Edward and I chased after them, but they were too fast. We saw some kangaroos and we chased after them and tried to shoot them with a stick. The next day we packed up and picked up some firewood to take back to Melbourne.



*What a weekend!  
Swimming in the dam, going for walks and catching yabbies!*



## Science Microscopes with Rick *By Nickiesha Kerinaiva*

One morning Mr. Rick came into the classroom with his microscope and a jar of water. He got the water from the lake at the Botanical Gardens. He showed us all the tiny things in the water through the microscope. We all saw a water flea, a worm, some bugs, some dirt and water leaves. Shannon and I were there together and we were using the microscope. Rick gave us sheets of paper with photos of all the things we could see in the water. We marked them off when we saw them. We had fun using Rick's microscope.



*Mr Rick tells the class about collecting the water and RJ shows what we can find.  
Meanwhile Nicki and Shannon learn how to use a microscope!*

## Kinder Visits *By Kenita Bush*

Every Monday since Week 3 of Term 2, all the MITS kids have been split into four groups and gone to kindergartens to spend time with kids from lots of different culture groups. The kinders were Dame Nellie Melba Kinder and Boroondara Kinders in Richmond, Yappera Kinder in Thornbury and Wesley College Kinder in St. Kilda.

My group went to Yappera Kinder. Most of the time Mr. Brad took us, but twice Mr. Brady took us. We had to leave around 15 minutes before the other MITS kids because we had to travel the furthest. For me the Yappera Kinder was so much fun. We didn't want to leave and the kids there didn't want us to leave. We had such a good time and we created a good bond with them.

We were always excited for Mondays, because we were going there. The funniest thing is that when we would get there, they would run up to the gate and say "school kids, school kids", until we got inside. The last time we visited, was last Monday, our last week at school. At first, Nickiesha, Shaniya and I would play with the younger kids, then play with the older kids. Then we would take them inside for a play. On our last day we gave them some gifts and cards we had brought them. There was a book called 'No Way Yirrikipay' (a Tiwi book), another called 'A is for Aunty' and a kaleidoscope that kids could play with. Before we left, we got a photo with them all and some of them nearly cried. Shaniya had her fidget spinner with her and she decided to give it to one of the little kids and he loved it. I can say that I didn't want to leave, because I had had so much fun there. I hope one day I'll be able to go back and visit again.



*Kenita, Shania and Kydan reading with Kinder students.*



## Measuring Punt Rd Oval *By Kydan Atkinson & Shannon Tipuamantumerri*

For two weeks we have been doing measuring in Maths. Then we had to go out onto the Punt Rd. Richmond oval and we measured all the different parts of the oval. We measured the goal square, the centre square, the centre circle, and around the boundary of the oval. We also measured the length and width of the oval as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags that were painted on the oval for Dreamtime week. Afterwards, we all came together to tell Mr. Brad our measurements for each section.



## Volunteers' BBQ *By Kydan Atkinson*

On Mabo Day all the MITS kids said a big thank you to the volunteers who help us around the boarding house and school, and take us everywhere. They take us to footy games, to shopping centers and to parks. They all came to Lockington for a BBQ where we welcomed them. Two kids did a speech to the volunteers about Mabo Day and said thank you. Then we all had dinner together. We had burgers, sausages, some vegetables and salads with the volunteers. After dinner we had dessert and it was good. We had cake and cupcakes and rum balls. There were lots more desserts than there were people to eat them. Everyone had a good time.



*Time for a feast with the volunteers at Lockington!*

## Muffins *By Albert Hood & Shania Marrakuy*

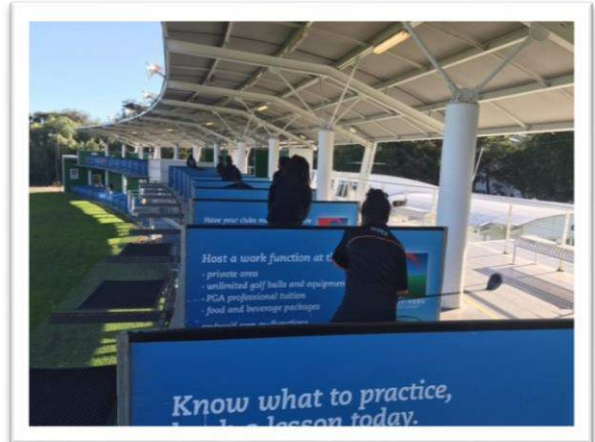
Every Thursday after school, we walk up the hill to our lovely house at 16 The Vaucluse in Richmond and we have muffins on the way home. Con and the workers at Rowena café cook them freshly for us. Lachy comes with us and if someone is not good, then they miss out on the muffins. They are yummy and taste really really good. Our favorite is the choc chip cookies and the white chocolate muffins which are so good. Thanks to everyone at Rowena Café!



*Yummmmm...  
Chocolate muffins!*

## Golf *By Albert Hood*

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, all the boys and then the girls went to the Albert Park golf driving range. It was really good fun. Me. Brady showed us how to hit the ball. We all got given tickets to collect 100 balls to hit out into the ranges. My first, 20 shots didn't go well then for me, but I got the hang of it and I got better with each moment. My farthest hit was almost the 200 but I only got it once. I killed one bird because it got in the way of the ball flying at it with heaps of speed. We hope that we can go there again one day.



*Four!  
The students work on their swing.*

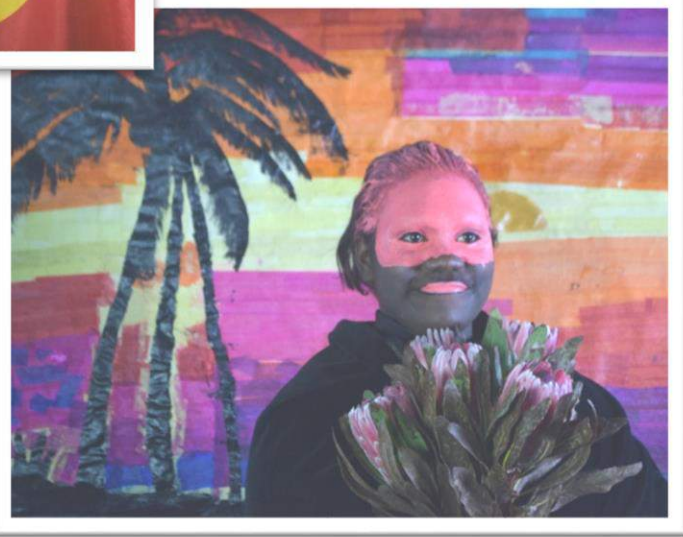
## Art at Lockington *By Chris Farnham*

After ten students visited Christian Thompson's exhibition with Ms. Sarah at Monash University, two of their staff came to our art classes to help us for 4 weeks. We had to make designs, do modelling and take photos of ourselves. Last week we worked with a partner, painted each other and stood in front of our paintings for the photos. We had to be creative with how we wanted to look.



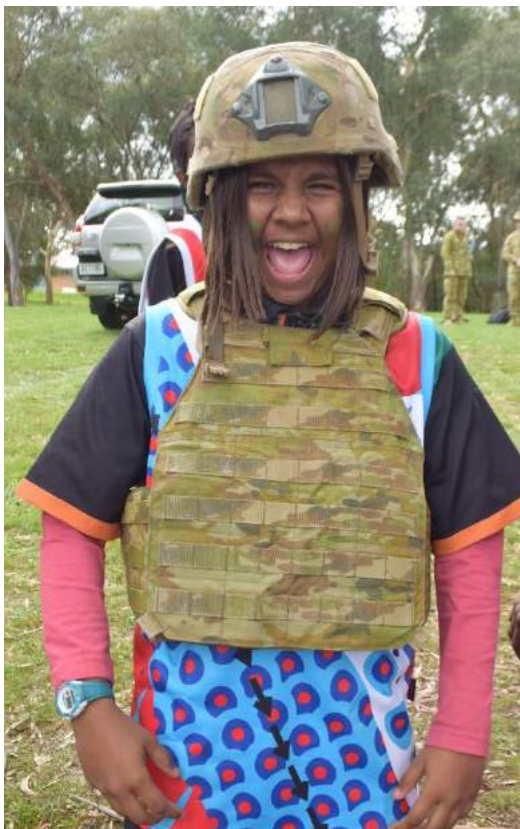
*Make way everyone, here  
comes some deadly talented  
MITS artists!*

*Art  
=  
AWESOME!*



Students at Simpson Barracks for Reconciliation Week Activities





## Working in the Classroom





## Student Art



Richmond Junior Football Club – Girls' Teams



## MITS Visitors



Melbourne University Science & Education visitors – Lisa & Sally, with Rick and Liz (above)  
And Tiwi College students (below)



## Thank-you to our Volunteers!



Thanks Sam! Have a great time in the USA!