

“Building Our Bright Future”

Executive Director's Message *By Edward Tudor*

Last week we witnessed an historic moment in Australia's history. Indigenous leaders from across the nation came together at Uluru and, together, crafted a powerful statement: The Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Statement from the Heart lays the foundations for Indigenous voices to be enshrined, protected and – most importantly – heard in decisions that affect Indigenous Australians.

As this vital national conversation progresses in the coming years, we hope that the voices of our young Indigenous people – passionate, critical and informed voices – will rise to the top and lead the hearts and minds of the nation.

This is the great challenge and opportunity that lies before our MITS students. Every day they are learning the skills that will enable them to advocate for their communities and become thought leaders.

A couple of weeks ago I was fortunate to run a lesson for our students on the 1967 Constitutional Referendum. I was so impressed by the way in which our young people engaged with the complexity of this history, and with the opportunities that still lie ahead.

After the lesson, the students were challenged to become lawmakers, and draft their own amendments to the Constitution. Some chose to recognise Indigenous Australians as our First Australians, others chose to prohibit discrimination, others contemplated what a treaty might look like. It was an uplifting moment, through which we could see a bright and optimistic future for our students, their communities, and for all of us as Australians.



Important Dates

June 10

Queen's Birthday Long Weekend

June 22

Last Term 2 School Day

June 23

Students Travel Home for Holidays

July 2

NAIDOC Week

Introducing New Staff: Samantha (Sammy) Rioli



Boarding House Coordinator

Welcome to the MITS team,
it's great to have you at
Lockington!

Head of School Report *By Kathryn Gale*

Dreamtime Week at the Richmond Football Club last week, afforded our students a number of learning experiences that were 'firsts' for many of them. These included meeting Richmond's legendary player Michael Mitchell, who was the club's special guest in Melbourne for the Dreamtime week. He spoke with the students about his life after footy, and stressed the importance of focussing on their education and making the most of their wonderful opportunities.



Michael Mitchell (centre right) with Terry, Luke Murray (KGI) and Phil Egan (right).

Later in the week, MITS students and staff hosted all of the Richmond players, officials and employees at Lockington for lunch. As the students met them at the gate, they said "welcome to our Melbourne home". It was an opportunity for our students to show gratitude and to say thank you to RFC for their support and encouragement. Latoya and Chris demonstrated excellent leadership through their official welcome to the guests. There were some very excited students, as they spent time with their favourite players.



Assembly May 18



School Captains Latoya & Chris lead the assembly



Respect Award – RJ Farnham
Presented by Ed Tudor



Care Award - Nickiesha Kerinaiva
Presented by Sally Cunningham

Head of School Report cont.

An important part of our MITS program, is the development of our students' learning and understanding about Victoria's Kulin Nations and in particular, the Wurundjeri people, upon whose land they are currently living. This learning recently involved them in a guided visit and walk to the Koorie Heritage Trust and Birrarung Marr.

Other learnings and experiences of our students over the past few weeks, are featured in the newsletter, in their own words.



The students get a hands-on lesson in culture at the Koorie Heritage Trust, as well as a walk through beautiful Birraruna Marr.



Courage Award – Shannon Tipuamantumerri
Presented by Brad Carmody



Boarding Award – Wayne Gaden
Presented by Ed Tudor



Academic Excellence Award – Latoya Tipiloura
Presented by Kathryn Gale

News from Lockington *By Amanda Haggie*

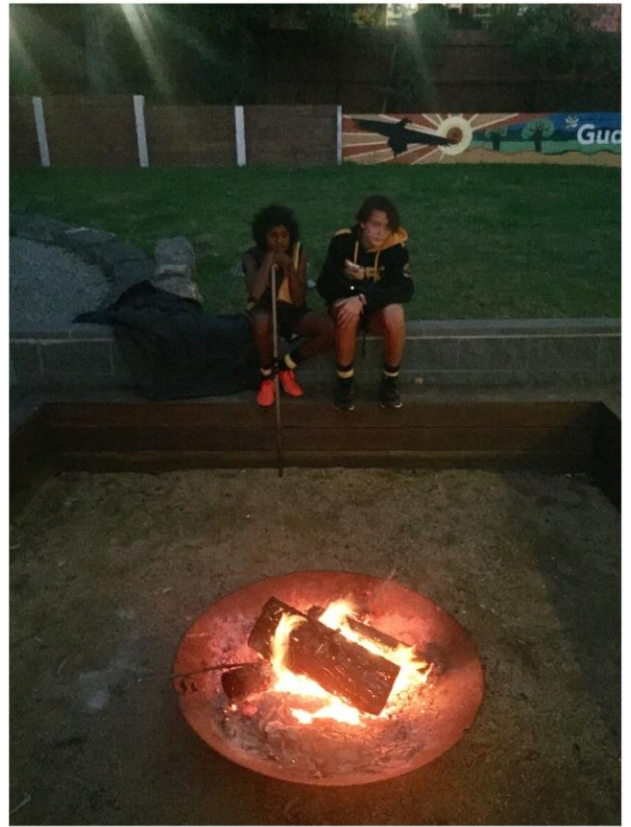
The kids from MITS have had a very busy three weeks with a couple of fantastic outings to some performances as part of the Yirramboi Festival. The first of these was a recital at the Melbourne Recital Centre by an Aboriginal Singing/Acting duo who created a moving sonic response to Indigenous artefacts held in museum collections globally. The singing and visual effects in this performance were mesmerizing. Another highlight for the students was getting their photo with Ghenoa Gela from 'Move it Mob Style' on NITV, who just happened to be sitting in the audience! The second event was a street performance by legendary Indigenous Hip Hop Artist Briggs.

MITS has also welcomed another male staff member to join our Team. Daniel Bolger comes to us from a background in Counselling and Aboriginal Men's Health. He is also a Personal Trainer and has had a great time with the boys sparring with his boxing mits. He also enjoys starting up hide and seek games and a kick of the footy! It is great to have him on board.

The Football season is going extremely well and Sunday mornings are full of very excited kids ready for their match. Last weekend as a tribute for Breast Cancer Awareness week all our teams wore

Pink Socks and the money raised from the purchasing of these is going to Breast Cancer Research. Last week all the teams also took part in team photos. These will hopefully be available to take home at the end of Term.

As the nights are getting darker much earlier we have been cranking up the Fire Pit and the kids are really enjoying having some chill time around the fire.



Banner Making with the Richmond Football Club Cheer Squad *By Albert Hood*

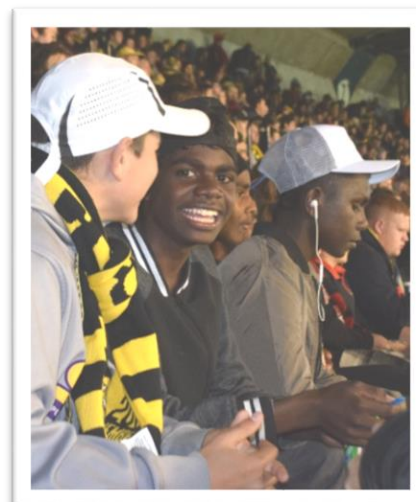
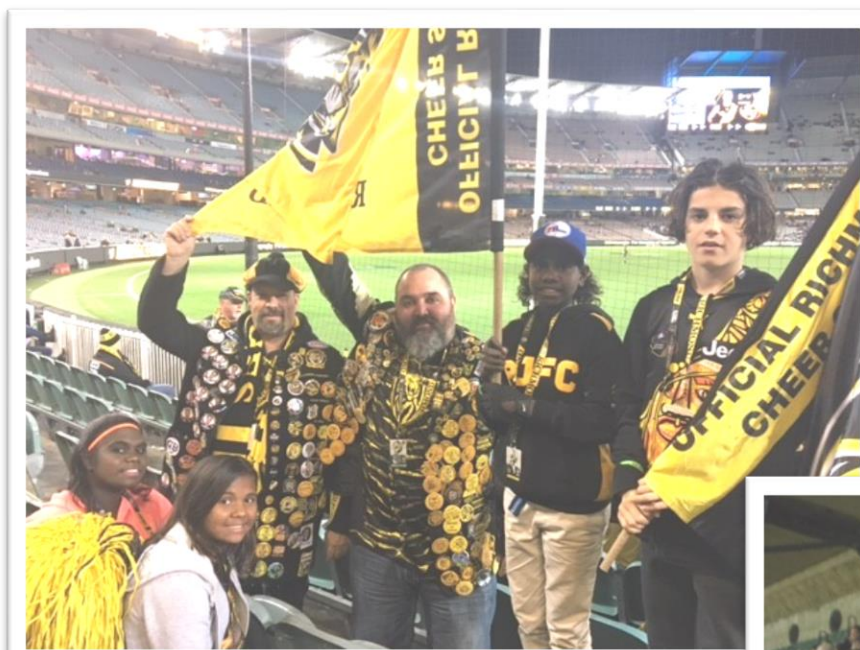
On Wednesday the 24th of May, everyone from MITS helped the Richmond Cheer Squad make a banner for the Dreamtime match at the MCG. We stuck letters down onto the huge banner, and helped make and cut out the Dreamtime design for the banner. The banner was special because it was made especially for Saturday night's match - Richmond vs Essendon. I was proud of helping the cheer squad for the first time in my life. On the night it looked so good. I didn't think I would ever in my life get to stand next to the cheer squad on the MCG in front of 85,641 people. I felt very proud.



Dreamtime at the 'G *By Calvin Cook, Calvin Doolan and Paul Babui*

On the weekend we went to the 'Dreamtime at the G' and we saw Richmond vs Essendon. Four kids went onto the ground and helped the cheer squad hold the banner up. Four kids also got to be part of the guard of honor as the Richmond players ran onto the oval. We saw Shania and Harry up on the big screen and we cheered for them.

All the 2016 and 2017 MITS kids sat up in Level 4 and watched the Aboriginal Dancing for Richmond and Essendon before the game. Then we watched the game. Richmond won and we were cheering heaps. When they won, we all sang the Richmond song called Tiger-land. We went back to Lockington to go to sleep and all the 2016 kids had a sleepover. It was a great Dreamtime match.



The MITS cheer squad enjoying an exciting match for Dreamtime at the 'G.

GO THE TIGERS!



Lunch with Richmond Football Club at Lockington *By Kenita Bush and Latoya Tipiloura*

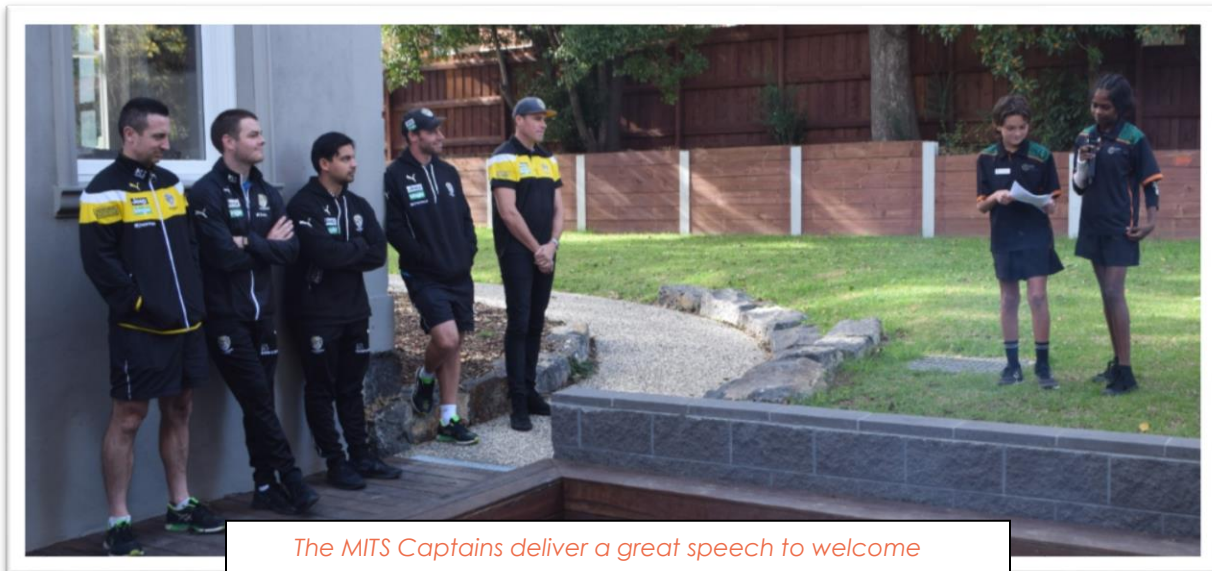
On Thursday the 25th of May, most Richmond staff and the players came to our boarding house "Lockington", for lunch.

When they first arrived, we welcomed them to our home. Latoya and Chris (Term 2 MITS captains) made a speech to say thank you and welcome to everyone.

After that, we all lined up to get some lunch (lasagne and salad with some buns). All the Richmond players were first to get food. Then the kids got lunch and sat with them, scattered everywhere on the grass, and at tables and around the fire pit.

Then Aaron (the Director of the Korin Gamadji Institute) said a really important speech about having us at Tiger Land and he also presented some awards. The Bunjil award was won by Jack Riewoldt #8 for Richmond. Morgan won the other award.

The MITS kids feel very lucky and proud to be able to do things like this and to go to school at the Richmond Football Club. Go Tiges!



The MITS Captains deliver a great speech to welcome Richmond Football Club to Lockington

Christian Thompson Art Gallery *By RJ Farnham*

On Tuesday the 9th of May, ten students got to go to meet the Indigenous artist, Christian Thompson at his art exhibition. It was at Monash University in Caulfield.

When we arrived there, we all walked up to him and shook his hand. He talked to us about himself and his art and then we went through a door into a room where there four TVs. On two of them, he was talking to his dad in his language. The other big TV had a woman singing in his language. On the other TV there was another man talking in his language.

After that, we went into a different room and there were lots of pictures of Christian Thompson covering his face with leaves and plants. Across from that, there were three big TVs with girls on them with wind blowing through their hair. In the other room, there was a big TV with Christian Thompson singing in his language. He explained to us about his art, and he shared some wonderful stories.

He is an amazing Indigenous artist and we were very lucky to have a personal tour of his art collection. In Art lessons this month, we have been using his art to inspire us with our work.

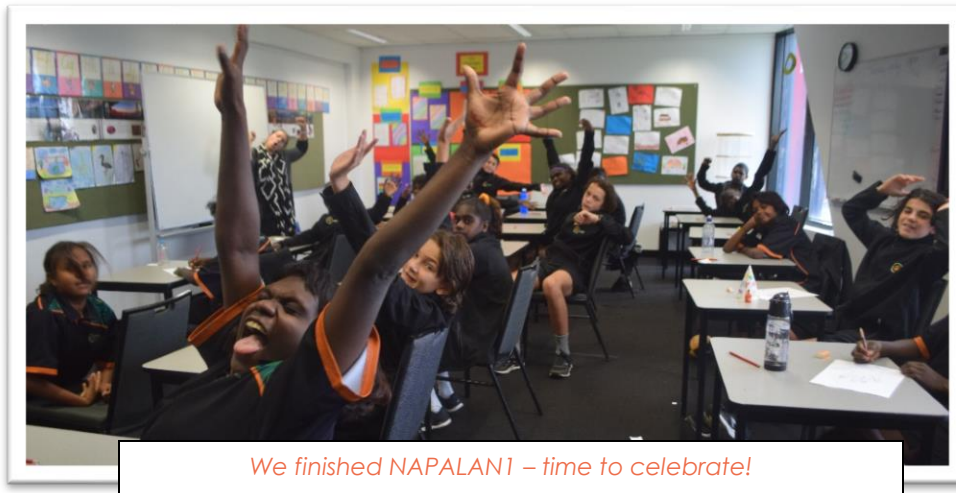


The MITS crew with artist Christian Thompson



NAPLAN *By Shaniya Cooper*

In Week 4, all kids from all around Australia in Year 7 did NAPLAN tests like us. We did four tests over three days and all the kids did well. Congratulations to all the kids from Melbourne Indigenous Transition School. We were very pleased to be finished. We all cheered.



Fun on Punt Road Oval *By Nickiesha Kerinaiva*

During NAPLAN week, we went and to blow off some steam on the Punt Rd Oval. We split into 2 teams and played footy. The teams were boys vs girls and Jayden Short was watching us from the gym. He decided to come out and play with us. Thanks Jayden for coming out and having a kick with us.



Mr. Ed Comes to Class *By Harry DeSantis*

Mr. Ed came to teach us in History last week. He talked about the Constitution and the 1967 Referendum. He also talked about how the government makes rules. Ed split us into groups and we wrote down all the rules that the government can change and can't. I liked Mr. Ed's lesson. It was fun and I would like to do it again.



Mr. Ed teaching students how to empower themselves through knowledge of their rights.

Stand up and have your voice heard!

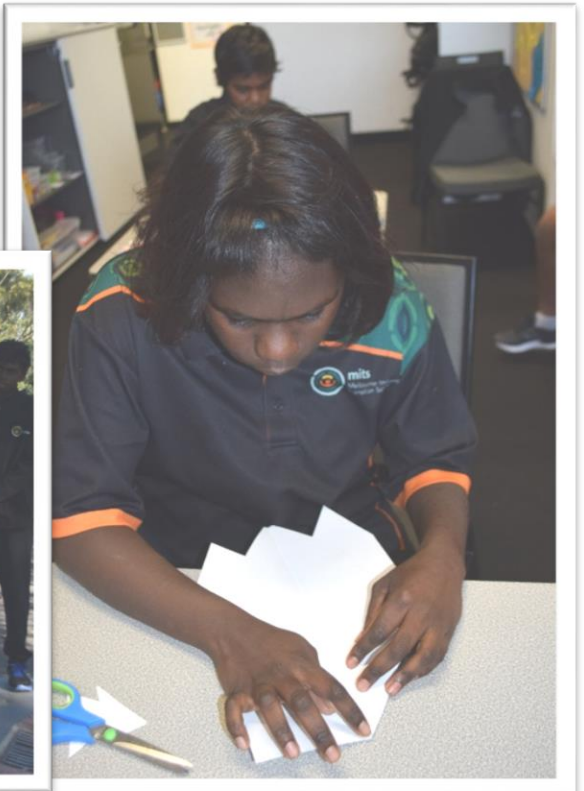


Paper Planes *By Ronnell Gaiurnbi*

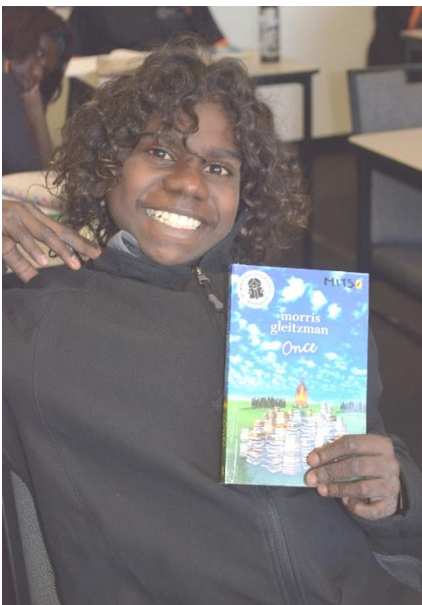
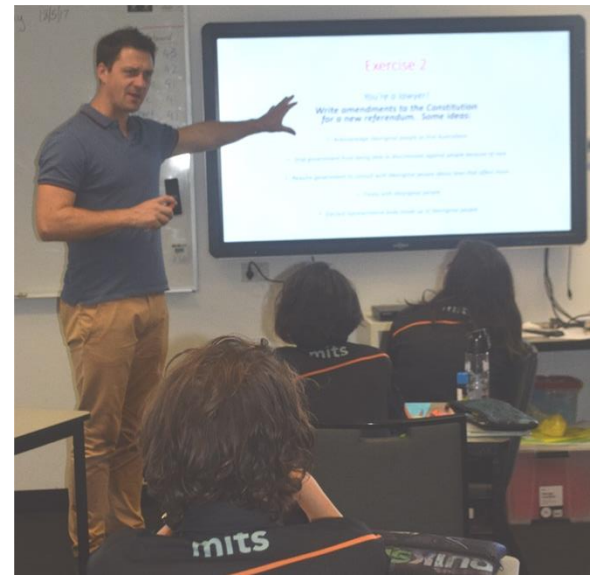
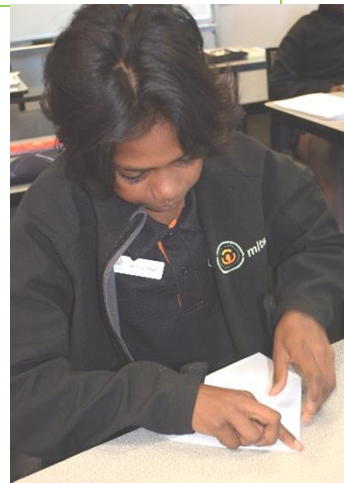
In Maths we made Paper Planes for measuring.

First, we had to measure and make our paper planes. We were only allowed to make 3 paper planes each. That was our maximum number.

Then we went outside and tested which plane could fly the longest. Harry threw one that went 26 metres. We also tested which plane could stay flying in the air for the longest. Paul's stayed in the air for 13 seconds. We enjoyed it so much, that now we all make paper planes for fun.



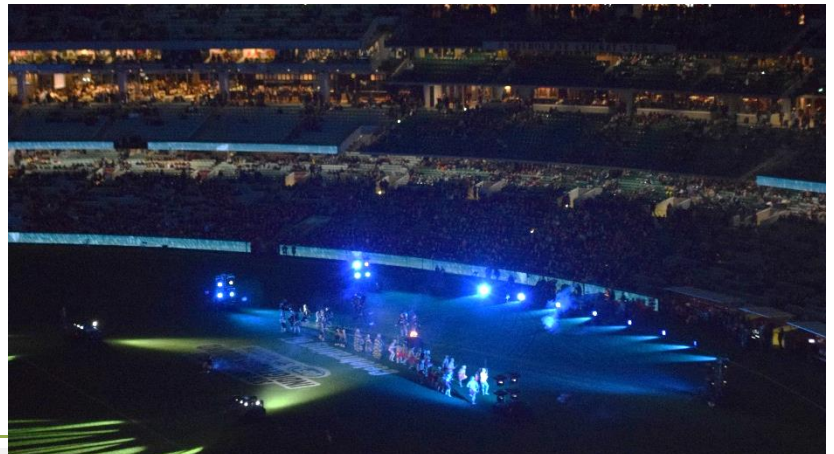
In the Classroom



Dreamtime Week 2017



Dreamtime Week 2017



Koorie Heritage Trust



Christian Thompson – inspired art work



Mathletics Awards



Birthdays

RJ &
Wayne