

“Belonging”

What a wonderful night we shared last week at our MITS Gala Dinner! Once again, we were fortunate to be joined by so many people from our community to celebrate MITS and raise essential funds for our future. The students were wonderful advocates and the night was full of energy, warmth and support for MITS and our students.

At the dinner, I spoke a little about the concept of belonging. This was something that was so noticeable at Tigerland during the finals campaign: as each week passed, so many Tiger faithful swarmed Punt Road Oval. They came to see their heroes, to share in the excitement, but most of all because they felt a deep sense of belonging and community at the Club.

This belonging is so relevant to our students as they enter their final term at MITS. During the course of their year with us, our students have built strong relationships with each other, with the staff and volunteers around them, and have come to feel “at home” at school and in the boarding house. This belonging is the glue that holds MITS together, in the good times and the hard times.

As our students begin their visits to their Partner Schools, and look towards the excitement and opportunity of next year, they will all feel some nervousness. This is natural, and to be expected. Before long, they will feel that they belong at their new Partner Schools also, as they form friendships, meet other families and come to know their school grounds. And of course, we hope that they always feel that they belong at MITS. If you have questions about their next step, please do be in touch.



Important Dates

October 31

Visit to Government House

November 7

Melb. Cup Public Holiday

December 11

Families to travel to Melb.

December 12

Families and students visit
Partner Schools

Graduation Dinner

December 13

End of Term – all students
travel home with their
families.



New School Captains for Term 4

Last week, the new MITS School Captains for Term 4 were elected, and announced in class. The two Term 3 captains, RJ Farnham and Naomi Gaykamangu congratulated Harry DeSantis and Shania Marrakuy and gave them their new MITS School Captain badges. Well done to Harry & Shania.



MITS Conversation Morning with Partner Schools, October 14

On Saturday October 14, MITS hosted a Conversation Morning for staff from our Partner schools. Each of these Partner schools have accepted our students into their school communities to begin Year 8 in 2018. It was an extremely positive experience, with all students confidently presenting their "This is Me" PowerPoint presentations to the attending staff from their new schools.



Robert Shaw, Bik Swann & Christine McIntosh attended from **Brighton Grammar School** and met with Harry De Santis and Calvin Cook



Phil O'Connor and Julia Thiele attended from **Melbourne Grammar** and met with RJ and Chris Farnham



Vince Toohey and Keeden Blow from **Trinity Grammar** Bhodi Sharman and Albert Hood



Melinda Blake, Sophie Miezis and Sula Tyndall from **Kingswood College** met with Naomi Gaykamangu, Latoya Tipiloura, Nickiesha Kerinaia and Shania Marrakuy



Chris Dite, Beth Alvarez & Marilyn Smith from **Preshil** met with Marie and Kirsty Dumoo



Kelly Gallivan and Stephen Foster from **St. Kevin's College** met with Kydan Atkinson (Wayne Gaden, absent)



Adam Some from **Huntingtower School** met with Kenita Bush and Shaniya Cooper



News from Lockington *By Amanda Haggie*

What a fantastic start to the Term Two! All our students returned with enthusiasm and excitement for transitioning to their new schools.

Our very first weekend was super exciting with an early morning visit to Fox Radio to meet Hamish and Andy and do some filming to showcase at our Gala dinner. This included a tour of the studio and the chance to introduce their own song on radio. A brilliant experience!



We are lucky enough to have two new male members join our staff this term. Jack Williams and Liam Flanagan. Both Jack and Liam are from Darwin and went to boarding school down here in Victoria; Melbourne and Ballarat. They are both keen footy players and are ensuring that the kids have lots of opportunities to get active.

We have noticed a significant growth in the maturity and responsibility of all our students. They are taking more pride in their surroundings and making sure they are always ready and organised. These are fantastic skills to be taking with them next year.

Patrick McCarthy has now changed his hours to working the whole weekend. This means he now has responsibility along with Amanda to plan and deliver our weekend activities. Last weekend we made a trip to the Enchanted Garden on the Mornington Peninsula. This is full of mazes, which the kids loved and also a tube slide, which was exhilarating to say the least. This activity ended with a trip to Dromana Beach. Beach Trips are also very popular.



As we have Halloween coming up, the students have been busy carving pumpkins and we have lots of spooky treats coming up...watch this space...photos to come!

- Amanda Haggie



2017 MITS Gala Dinner *By Nichola Lefroy*

Last Thursday night 400 guests joined our students and staff to celebrate our third annual Gala Dinner at Carousel on Albert Park Lake. In that beautiful setting our students shone! From giving guests their table numbers, to chatting with partner school staff or RJFC parents, to Shaniya C's Acknowledgement to Country with Board Member Nova Peris (see the full text in the next article), to Kenita's Opening Remarks with hilariously clever MC Hamish Blake, they were wonderful ambassadors for themselves, their families, their Communities and MITS.



Other highlights included Yirmal Marika's powerful performance, Ed's speech about belonging, Liz Tudor's speech honouring the woman who is the inspiration behind MITS, Michelle Kerrin's heartfelt thank you to the assembled crowd, the appearance of the 2017 AFL Premiership Cup (thank you Richmond Football Club), the stunning works of art up for auction and our auctioneer, James McCormack's, masterful work raising \$5,000 for a bottle of 'Andy by Hamish: a smart casual fragrance for men', normally retailing at \$29.99!

The good will in the room was palpable and showed our students how many people are standing with them as they take their educational path further in Melbourne.

Thank you to all who came and made the night a fantastic success and a final thank you to our Events Team for bringing it all together.



Gala Dinner Acknowledgement of Country

Shaniya Cooper, supported by her Auntie Nova Peris, did the Acknowledgement of Country at the Gala Dinner last week. She was very brave and courageous in front of 400 guests. This is what she said:

“Hello & good evening everyone. My name is Shania Cooper. I am from Minjilang, a community on Croker Island in the NT. I am a member of the Iwaidja people. I have loved my time at MITS and I thank them for all my educational opportunities. I know MITS would not be possible without the blessings of the traditional owners of the land where we are gathered tonight, and the lands where we live and go to school. Aunty Joy has given us her blessings. We at MITS acknowledge this. We pay our respects always, to the people and the land – the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations. I acknowledge their ancestors and their elders, both past and present. We at MITS thank their ancestors for keeping us safe on their country. I know Aunty Joy who is not able to be here tonight, sends her best wishes and love, and like always, asks us to respect the land, the animals and the waters. I hope everyone enjoys the evening tonight. Thank you”.



Shaniya Cooper and Nova Peris

Gala Dinner *By Albert Hood*

On Thursday the 19th of October we had the MITS Gala Dinner. The Gala Dinner is held to fundraise money for next year's MITS students. It was held at Carousel in Albert Park and 400 people attended. It was a really busy night with lots of people meeting each other and learning about the school. My role was to stand out the front of the venue and introduce myself to the guests as they arrived, and then to tell them where they would be sitting throughout the night. To raise money there was lots of art and other things on sale and throughout the night there were screens showing slideshows of the MITS students throughout the year for everyone to see. Hamish Blake was the MC for the night which was really cool and Kenita got to speak on stage with Hamish about her experience at the school. The night started with Nova Paris conducting the Acknowledgement of Country with Shaniya and throughout the night there was live music and a dinner for all the people that attended. We left the dinner at around 9 o'clock and went back to Lockington to have dinner. It was a really good night and we had the opportunity to meet heaps of new people that are interested in the school and I think that it is a really important night to raise money for next year's students.



*All smiles and laughs with Hamish
at the Gala Dinner!*

Regina Wilson visits MITS

Regina Wilson and her daughter Nunuk, came to the Wednesday Art class and spoke with the students about their inspirational art works. Regina and Nunuk are from Peppimenarti and Regina is Anthony Wilson's (MITS student in 2016) grandmother. Regina and Nunuk have been in Adelaide and Melbourne exhibiting their work. Regina is soon to go to the USA to paint a big painting in Washington. They painted alongside the students.



MITS Shield and Wall-hanging

MITS Shield

At the MITS camp in Torquay in Term 3, the boys worked with Isaac, Robert and Richard Young to create a shield. They burned their totems and other symbols onto the shield. Isaac delivered the completed shield to the classroom last week. It will remain at the school as a permanent reminder of the MITS boys of 2017.



MITS Silk wall-hanging

At the MITS camp in Torquay in Term 3, the girls worked with Lyn-Al and Judith Young to create a silk wall-hanging. They painted symbols that meant something to them, onto the silk. Isaac Young delivered the completed silk to the classroom last week. It will remain at the school as a permanent reminder of the MITS girls of 2017.



Welcome to Dr. Sally Manuell

MITS is very fortunate to have Dr Sally Manuell as a regular visitor at MITS to support the health and well-being of our MITS students. Sally gives her time to conduct a health clinic at the school each fortnight, or weekly if needed. She comes to MITS with a wealth of experience as a Melbourne GP and currently has a Practice in Heidelberg. Already, since beginning her health clinics with the students, she has been able to address many of their health concerns and challenges. We are thrilled that she is able to support the students in such a critical and valued way.



Dr Sally speaking with Kenita

Melbourne University Science Class *By Wayne Gaden*

Last term we visited Melbourne University to learn about Chemistry and on Monday we went back to learn about Biology. We had an awesome and interesting time with Lisa and Mick and learnt a lot about biology. We did three activities throughout the day. In the first activity we each brought different things from around the school to look at through the microscope. I brought a centipede and a flower. Through the microscope I could see all of the centipede's tiny legs and the cells of the flower. It was really cool. In the second activity we got to look at our own cells under the microscope! We each took a swab from the inside of our cheeks and put that on a glass viewing plate so that we could look at it under the microscope. We mixed the swab with some dye so that we could see our cells and when we looked at them under the microscope they were all white, like tiny bits of egg whites! It was kind of weird but really cool to see our own cells up close! In the final activity we dissected a squid. We pulled out it's guts and even its two teeth, I had no idea before that squid even had teeth! We got to open its guts and have a look inside. It was disgusting and gross but interesting to see the squid from the inside. It was a fantastic day and we had a lot of fun and we learnt a lot. I never knew that the cells of leaves were so small and in the shape of squares!



The MITS scientists making discoveries in the laboratory!

Tree of Life *By Bhodi Sharman*

On the 10th October 7 students graduated from the Tree of Life program. It is a narrative program that uses the different parts of a tree as a metaphor to represent the different parts of the students' lives. While drawing their trees and telling the story of their lives, the students identified their many strengths and connections to the people who have been, and are in their lives.

I enjoyed the tree of life program; it's good to talk about what our strengths and skills are. I invited my family to the Tree of Life graduation, where I showed them my tree. I was happy showing my Nan the skills she has given me and I thank her for that.



Bangarra *By Shaniya Cooper*

Last term in week 7 we all went to watch the Bangarra Dance Company perform Bennelong at the Arts Centre. On Friday of that week we did a workshop with three of the Bangarra dancers. Their names were Tara, Luke and Rikki. They came to the Richmond Football Club and did a workshop with the MITS kids. We all made a circle and had to introduce ourselves and where we are from. Then we did stretches to warm up. They taught us some of the Bennelong dances and then we did a Torres Strait Islander dance. The girls and boys all danced in separate groups and the last bit we did together. Most of kids had no shame and enjoyed the dance. At the end we got to ask some questions and they told us how they spend lots of time away from home and family just like us at MITS. It was a really fun day and I enjoyed it all.



Perfect poise from our performers!



The 2017 MITS Gala Dinner – what a wonderful evening!

Thank you all for your support!

