**Year 9 Wadeye trip**

When we arrived in the township, our first impressions were that the aboriginal people were very different and we felt quite nervous. As soon as we got into the community and had our first encounters, we found that they were lovely, welcoming people and they were very open and forthcoming.

The Wadeye youth are raised to learn about their country in great detail and could explain it to us very well. We learned a lot!

We learned about bush tucker and local beliefs and traditions.

We learned about totems - if your totem is a kangaroo you cannot harm them, ever, for any reason. Some people have more than one totem - for example, a rainbow and a bush wallaby and a crocodile. Totems are given by the elders at birth.

We also learned that boys have an “avoidance relationship” with their sisters, which is a very strict and serious matter. Boys cannot speak directly to their own sisters for decades. This is to ensure that inbreeding can’t happen.

During our trip, the troupe-carrier vehicle was bogged in the mudflats. Every person in the community helped where they could, like a family.

We also attended an important elder’s funeral. She had a lot to do with discipline and leadership in the community so it was a very important community event. No-one couldn’t mention her name at all, until the spirits had been released at the funeral.

This whole experience was awesome and one of the best things we’ve ever done. We made lots of new friendships and gained a much better understanding of the culture. We would recommend applying to go to Wadeye to all upcoming students.

We would like to thank Murrup (a Wadeye elder who gave permission for us to stay at the brand new boarding house for aboriginal school students), Justin and Rebecca Crawley, Graham Gales and Russell Shem.

*Liam Packham and Felix Blazek, 9B*

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**Wadeye Adventure…**

I was fortunate to visit Wadeye with Mrs Crawley, Liam McDonagh, Paul Dalbosco and six Year 11 Students over the school holidays.

Each day was an experience in aboriginal culture and life, from turtle egg hunting, searching for bush honey, watching the preparation of magpie goose and visiting the local school. The people we met were friendly and happy to answer our questions about life at Wadeye. Sleeping out for one night in a swag was an experience!!

I visited the school library and met the school Teacher Librarian, Geraldine. I was impressed by, and a little jealous of, the facilities of the library; it was only completed this year and has all new shelving and furniture! Rebecca and Justin Crawley are to be congratulated for their work in bringing aboriginal culture to Bright and helping the community in Wadeye. Breaking down barriers and having a better understanding of each other can only improve the world.

*Vicki Newcomb*

Library staff
Gymnastics

Mid-September saw the College make two trips to Melbourne for the annual Inter School Gymnastics Competition. The competition was held at the purpose built BTYC gymnastics facility in Donvale.

Day 1 involved 12 primary aged gymnasts representing Bright P-12 College, Porepunkah PS and Wandiligong PS. The kids eagerly took to the floor after waiting patiently in line for Ruby to braid all the girls’ hair in intricate plaits. The coaches and parents were proud to see their gymnasts strut their stuff in the big gym but unfortunately it was not Bright’s day with a number of uncharacteristic falls on beam and bars. The gymnasts were split into two teams and overall finished 8th and 10th which is not a bad result considering we were one of only a few government schools competing against many elite Melbourne private schools. The secondary kids unfortunately did not fare so well either which was probably not helped by sleep deprivation after our 3am departure. The C division girls (Ruby, Izzy and Miranda) finished 9th and the E division girls (Zoe K, Gabby and Brynn) finished 9th as well. The E division boys team (Jalen, Nick and Jesse) performed much better finishing 4th overall while individual entrants Tyson came in 8th in D division and Tom in his final ISG competition finished 5th overall in B division which is truly an outstanding result considering the very limited hours of training Tom (and all the gymnasts) do.

Special thanks to all primary parents who escorted their children to Melbourne and also to Dave Williams for assisting in driving the bus for the secondary students.

Matt Pywell

Bright P-12 College Snowsports Team

The Bright College Snowsports Team (BCST) consists of a volunteer group who coordinates and manages two programs for the benefit of the college community. The programs involve 10 days of skiing / snowboarding; run during 5 weekdays and 5 weekend days throughout the ski season. Students travel to and from Mt. Hotham in private cars with Parent/Guardians. Each day’s program consists of students skiing with Parents / Guardians in the morning and then participating in a lesson in the afternoon. Racing for Bright P-12 College at Interschool’s Grand Prix Events is encouraged but not compulsory.

The Bright College Snowsports Team offers the following programs:

- 2 hour lesson for skiing or snowboarding for 10 days with the Mount Hotham Ski School, or
- 3 hour freestyle skiing only lesson for 10 days with the Mount Hotham Ski School. This option has limited places and is available only for more experienced skiers.

During 2012, eighty-six students were members of the BCST, participating in the disciplines of alpine skiing and snowboarding. Families from Bright P-12 College, Harrietville Primary School, Porepunkah Primary School and the Dinner Plain Annex made up the membership of the Team.

Throughout the season the BCST sponsored race days which included:

- School house race day; open to all students,
- Some of the Grand Prix events held at Falls Creek and Mount Hotham
- Victorian Interschool’s racing held at Mount Buller.
- Australian Nationals
- The Milne Cup

This year the Milne Cup was once again established between the Myrtleford Alpine Race Team (MART) and the Bright BCST with the cup returning to Bright P-12 College. Racing locally provides members the opportunity to improve their skiing or snowboarding ability and fosters healthy competition between schools and between students.

Lisa Neville
The BCST had their annual presentation dinner in November, where awards were presented for the following categories:

- Coaches’ awards
- The Silverstar award
- Club champion and Racing division awards
- Participation Awards

Throughout the season students are nominated by their coaches and at the end of the season the participant with the highest number of nominations within each group receives their group award. These awards are based on willingness to learn and take direction, adhering to the Alpine code of conduct, helping others in the group and generally showing good sportsmanship.

**Silverstar Award**
The Silverstar award, sponsored by Big White, is awarded to the student with the highest number of nominations by a coach throughout the season and this year was awarded to Zoe Grayson.

**Club Champion**
The Club Champion is race based and is awarded to the participant who gains the highest points through competitive racing. This year awarded to Harry Young.

Zoe and Harry are pictured above right with Lucie Lolicato. Principal John Pryor presented awards to (clockwise from right) Lachie Forbes, Harrison Neville, Nicholas Paternotte, Tenley Brandon, Zoe Grayson, Zoe Kemp and Ariel Witts, Tom Crawley.
Primary Performing Arts
Year 7 2012

Absent: Tyree Barratt-Hassett, Isabelle Tomasoni
Absent: Roy Kennedy, John Despotellis
Absent: Chad Martin, Mason Sharpe

Absent: Frank Kusch, Darcy Yagmoor
Absent: Tyler Bourke, Courtney Langlands, Eden Pack, Charlotte Vine

Absent: Vanessa Davis, Jarrad Hewitt, Caleb Lancaster, Jesse Thomson
Absent: Timothy Bell, Drew Carrigg, Ryan Fisher, Skye Keys, Harlan Lesser

Absent: Sam Buckley, Nathan Dalbosco