

# WILTJA WANGKANYI

(Wiltja talk)

Newsletter of Wiltja Secondary College

Issue 1

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## Wiltja Secondary College

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## Being a Wiltja Student

I have just had quite a shock. As I sat down ready to compose a newsletter report, I thought that it would be timely to write about attendance at Wiltja. You see, there are a few concerns. However, according to the saved articles filed in my MacBook, it appears that I have written about attendance in more than half of the newsletters since 2008.

Is this a sign to leave attendance alone and find another topic? If only.

Coming to Wiltja for secondary education makes sense for many students. Wiltja is a specialist Anangu school where students can learn alongside other students from diverse cultures and enjoy all the amenities and choices offered in the city. But big city schools need to be well-organised – interlacing timetables for many year levels, subjects offered in semesters, start and finish days, Wednesday zone sport, summative assessments with due dates, and so on. So, when Wiltja students return two or three weeks late, or even take off a term here or there, it makes it difficult for our students to really feel part of the two host schools, let alone be able to achieve at the high levels of which they are capable.

It is understandable that, once home in community, young people will feel like staying a little longer to attend a sports carnival, or tell their families that they need a term off but promise to go back later on. Sadly, some of these students never come back, or suddenly decide to complete their education several years later but at a time which is not suitable like mid-way through a semester. It is also ironic that some government bodies offer sporting carnivals as an initiative to encourage young people to attend school!

Sometimes our students forget that, at Wiltja, they can play AFL for Gepps Cross, or in the Power Cup or weekly in Zone sport; that they can still compete in the Ernabella Dance; that they can participate in other exciting events such as an excursion to Roxby Downs, work experience at Yulara and volunteering in Vietnam. And then there are the everyday events which young people enjoy such as shopping in big centres, attending AFL matches, going to the cinema, paint-balling, Bounce, community volunteering, as well as soft beds and freshly cooked meals.

Young people all over the world need lots of encouragement to attend school every day, and our students are no different. Once young people have spent a term or so at Wiltja, then we need to remind them that they are required to go back to Wiltja when the holidays end. Just as we do not ask young people around the home community if they want to come to school that day, then we should not ask Wiltja students if they want to return to school in Adelaide.

Thankfully, there are many young people at Wiltja who understand the importance of secondary education and therefore have the motivation to keep on coming back, term after term. This group will be successful graduates and leave with a SACE certificate giving them national recognition of persistence and a job well done.

Be there or be square.

Be in it to win it.

Learners are earners.

Ashley Dorr  
Principal

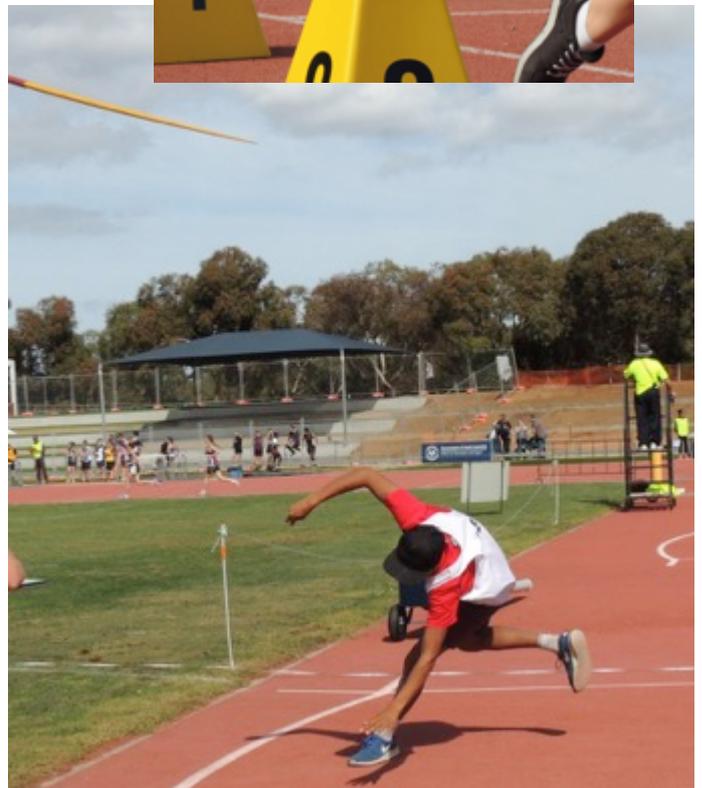
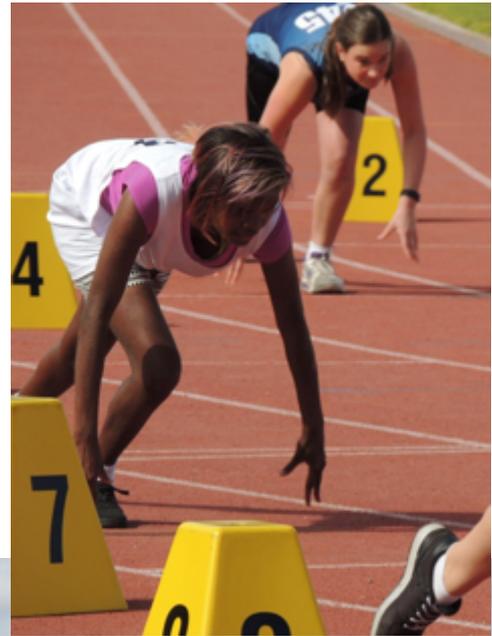
## Athletics – Interschool State Championships

SA Athletics Stadium  
Thursday 7th April, 2016

Congratulations to Christine, Isabella, Clifton, Tremaine, Rubin and Rowen who were selected and represented Wiltja in the Woodville High School (WHS) Athletics Team at the Interschool State Championships.

To get selected, these students first competed and won their events at the WHS Sports Day which was held earlier in Term 1.

The Interschool State Championships was a great day for all involved. It was fun to compete against students from other schools from around the state as part of the WHS team. Competition was strong, but WHS not only won their division in both girls and boys events, but also won the division overall! We are all proud of our students and host school for putting in such a fantastic effort to get the best result and give us many experiences to build on and remember!



WILTJA ATHLETICS RESULTS 2016 Interschool State Championships		
NAME	EVENT	RESULT
Christine	U14 girls 200m	? <sup>th</sup>
	U14 girls 800m	4 <sup>th</sup>
	U14 girls 4 x 100m relay	1 <sup>st</sup>
	U16 girls 4 x 100m relay	5 <sup>th</sup>
Tremaine	U14 boys javelin	4 <sup>th</sup>
Isabella	U 16 girls 100m	5 <sup>th</sup>
	U16 girls 200m	4 <sup>th</sup>
	U16 girls 400m	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	U16 girls 4 x 100m relay	5 <sup>th</sup>
Clifton	U16 boys relay	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rowen	U16 boys discus	4 <sup>th</sup>
Rubin	Open boys javelin	2 <sup>nd</sup>



## Adelaide Gaol and Parliament House Excursion

On Tuesday the 29th of March (Term 1, Week 9) Transition, Year 9 and Year 10 Wiltja students attended an excursion to the Adelaide Gaol. Adelaide Gaol is one of the oldest buildings in Adelaide and was a place that used to execute prisoners until the 1960s. It is now a museum where tourists and schools come to learn about prison life between the 1800s -1900s.

Our tour guide, Michelle Russell, who works at Adelaide Gaol, took us around the old building and talked to us about some of the more important parts of the gaol: the old visitor's area, the Hanging Tower, the interactive museum, and C Block where inmates destined for execution were housed. It was a very interesting and educational visit, with all the students very curious about life in the old gaol.

After lunch in the Adelaide Gaol picnic area, Transition and the Year 10s returned to school while the Year 9s continued their excursion to the South Australian Parliament House. We were met by local member, Matthew Heane, and were taken on a tour of the Lower and Upper Houses by Penny, the Parliament House's education officer. Penny talked to the students about how the Lower House (House of Assembly) and the Upper House (The Legislative Council) operates when the ministers are all sitting. We took lots of photos of students sitting in the Speaker's Chair and students asked some very thoughtful questions of Penny and Matthew.

All in all we had a very fun and educational day, that helped the students enhance their learning on the Humanities topic '*Civics & Citizenship: Australian Government*'.

Michael Morrison



Students with teachers, Kay and Jacqui, outside Adelaide Gaol



Students with Kay outside Parliament House

## Conservation and Land Management

In term 1, all of the Wiltja year 10s started a Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management (CLM). Students will spend one day each week for the whole year learning about plants, animals and the environment, incorporating aspects of the science and geography curriculum. Students who complete the full certificate will receive 60 SACE Stage 1 credits.

The first term focussed on Workplace Health and Safety, a very important part of all work related training, as well as flora (plants). Students have done some of their learning in the Woodville High School Community Garden, at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and Cleland Wildlife Park. They learned about the parts of plants that scientists use for identification, like leaves, seeds, flowers, fruit and bark. They also learned how to collect and preserve plant specimens by using a plant press to squash the plants flat so they can be stored in a 'herbarium' - a folder with pages of plant samples. Accurate recording of information, including complex scientific names, and use of maps and GPSs to record accurate locations were essential.

(continued on next page)



Learning about plant identification in the Botanic Gardens



Working in the Woodville garden



Using a camera and GPS to set up photo monitoring points

## CLM continued

In term 2, the focus is on fauna (animals) and propagation (growing plants). Students will be going on a camp to Arid Recovery at Roxby Downs to learn about animal trapping and tracking, as well as classification and identification, particularly of mammals, reptiles and birds. We will also do some volunteer work like treating weeds and fixing up some of the park's fences.

Another major focus will be setting up a propagation area in the WHS garden to grow seeds collected from various places around South Australia. By being involved in the Botanic Gardens SEEDS Program (Stewardship of Endangered Endemic Species), we hope to grow some seeds from endangered plants from the APY and MT Lands. When the plants are large enough, we will collect more seeds, grow more plants and hopefully, in the future, be able to return some plants to their original habitats.

In term 3, we will be doing lots of work at Cleland Wildlife Park, helping to maintain the areas where food is grown for their koalas.

Daniel Lasscock and Sarah Lindsay



Working in the field at Cleland Wildlife Park to identify plants and collect samples

**Student Teacher:  
Annelise Farrelly**

Wiltja School has been fortunate enough in Term 2 to have a final year student teacher, Annelise Farrelly. She has been working part-time with us, teaching Health and Science and helping the Transition class, as well as teaching PE in Woodville High School. We have loved having her here, as she has been a very caring and hard-working member of our staff.

She would like to work with indigenous students and has already spent some time in an APY Lands community. We wish her all the best with her teaching career.



## Mock Election

As part of the Term 1 Civics and Citizenship topic, students participated in a mock (pretend) election to learn more about voting in Australia.

There was a short presentation at the start to revisit what many students have learned about our system of government and voting and how this is different to other countries.

For the mock election, some students acted as 'election officials', crossing the voters' names off the electoral roll and giving them voting ballot papers, or directing voters to a voting booth, or making sure ballot papers went into the correct ballot box. After voting, some students volunteered to be 'scrutineers' to do the vote counting.



Counting the preferential votes



Checking the electoral roll



Putting the ballot papers into the ballot boxes

Students did 2 types of voting. The first was a simple 'Yes' or 'No' selection as part of a Plebiscite, which is similar to a Referendum but a yes vote on a Referendum means the law must be changed, whereas the result of a Plebiscite does not have to be followed by the government. The topic of the vote was 'The Adelaide Crows should be the only SA team in the AFL' and the majority of students voted 'No'.

The other type was preferential voting where they had to vote on their favourite colour from 5 choices by numbering the ballot paper from 1 (first preference) to 5 (last preference). The topic was 'Favourite Colour', and the 5 candidates were Brown, Grey, Orange, Purple and Pink. Students learned about the complicated way that preferential votes are counted. The winner of the election, by a narrow margin, was 'Orange'.