

WILTJA WANGKANYI

Wiltja talk

Wiltja Secondary College Newsletter

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Wiltja Secondary College

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See You - Principal's Farewell

Well, the time has come to leave Wiltja. It is not a light decision, but one that we all need to make when we simply grow older and understand the need to move on.

Almost 20 years ago, I was asked to fill in at Wiltja for one term (while year 9 teacher, Anthony Bennett, was on study leave). At first I said no because the person in the education department who offered the job told me that Wiltja was almost on the border with the NT. However, he rang back a while later and said that Wiltja was located at Woodville High. So, I accepted.....and the biggest teaching adventure of my life began.

The stars of the adventure were the hundreds of young people who bravely left their families and travelled hundreds of kilometres to try out secondary studies in the big smoke, alongside hundreds of students from all over the world. Many of these young people persevered and graduated, but I am confident that all who came for just a while were changed in good ways and better equipped to be confident adults. One highlight for me was to meet up with several students, now living in Alice Springs, who

grumbled about being homeowners with jobs, bills and responsibilities (which they blamed on Wiltja).

The other stars have been the dedicated teachers and youth workers who care beyond expectation. Before Wiltja, I worked in many schools; they were all good places, but nothing came close to the depth of responsibility shared by everyone to make a caring and excellent educational community. Teachers love working at Wiltja and doing their very best for all our students.

So students, enjoy your time at Wiltja, and keep on imagining and planning what you will be doing later on. Then, love *your* children, read to them every day when they are young and have great conversations about the big issues in life.

Ashley Dorr



Ashley and Kay with the senior class in 2006

Operation Flinders: Tango 4 - The Legends of Tomorrow

Early on the 22nd of March, nine very sleepy boys: Rowan, Rubin, Clifton, Bryce, Allen, Cooper, Kaul, Quinn and Shane, along with Mr Tuffnell and Jacqui, took off for the Operation Flinders Camp. Eight days of hiking over 100kms of the Gammon Ranges, the far northern Flinders Ranges, lay ahead. After a long bus trip, we were met on the side of the road by our camp leaders, Scott and Fred, where we had to pack our few allowed items into the backpacks provided.

Our days started early when we were woken by Scott. It wasn't until we were packed up ready to go that we were allowed to sit by the camp fire and have breakfast.

Each day the boys had duties: two on kitchen patrol, two on sanitary patrol, two on fire patrol, two on support and one team captain. Before we headed out hiking, the day's food was divided between the boys to carry, the thunder box was packed up and water bottles were filled. With our teeth brushed by the camp fire, hats, sunscreen, boots and 15-20kg backpacks on our backs, our big day's adventure began.

The days were long and very hot hiking over rough, rocky terrain, through creek beds, around water holes and over mountains. The scenery was "breathtaking" (as stated repeatedly by Cooper), including many pretty wildflowers, wildlife, magnificent large gum trees, water holes and the most amazing views of the Flinders Ranges from Mt. Rose and Mt. Yudlamoorra.

Night time was a blessing for us all. The boys had fun relaxing and kicking the footy around with Mr Tuffnell. Our feet were thankful for thongs. We sat around the fire telling stories, discussing our highs and lows and the hero of

the day while eating our dinner sometimes out of a tin can, which we could then throw on the fire when finished. We all loved sleeping under the millions of stars and counting how many shooting stars we could see.



Operation Flinders *continues*

Our breaks saw some boys lying on backpacks snoring, exhausted. Others enjoyed the water holes and the rock skipping competitions. One water hole, while some of us rested under the shade melting, provided many boys with a bathing oasis who enjoyed lathering up with soap (thanks, Shane).

When arriving in camp, Scott and Fred were determined for us all to set up our hutchies for the night. This proved hard work for a few of us and in the wind at night some even half blew away!

On our last few nights we were lucky that we were allowed to sleep as a “burrito”. This was when our canvases were laid on the red dirt full of nasty thorns and trap door spider holes. Then, when in their sleeping bags, I would individually wrap the boys up in their hutchies and lie them down to sleep. Thus, looking like a burrito!

Some highlights of the trip were the team challenges (especially the electrified Charlotte’s Web), abseiling, Noel teaching us Dreaming stories, the “My Walla” song and the boys’ favourite meal of kangaroo stew with bread and Nutella.

A special mention to Bryce, who showed great leadership by supporting and caring for all boys and staff, and entertaining us throughout the entire camp.

The camp was a tough and challenging experience mentally, physically and emotionally. The boys built positive supportive relationships, learnt how to work together, resilience, to believe in themselves and to see how strong they really are. The determination and perseverance of all students made the staff proud.

Jacqui Ellis & Sam Tuffnell
Operation Flinders Teachers



Year 10 Camp to Arid Recovery - Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management

In Week 6 of Term 2, the Yr. 10s (minus Casey who unfortunately had broken his leg) went on a four day camp to Arid Recovery.

Arid Recovery is a partnership which looks after a large reserve, just North of Olympic Dam and Roxy Downs. The aim of Arid Recovery is to research and restore the local arid environment. It is surrounded by a special fence which keeps feral animals like cats, dogs, rabbits and camels out. This allows local plants and animals to thrive and protects locally extinct animals like the Greater Bilby, Burrowing Bettong, Greater Stick Nest Rat and the Western Barred Bandicoot to be safely released.

The camp gave us the opportunity to participate in many activities and learn new skills to fulfill requirements for several 'Units of Competency' we were studying for our Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management.

Thanks to the staff at Arid Recovery, Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, Wiltja Boarding Recreation Team and catering staff, Phil Salter, Mick Starkey and everyone else who contributed to our learning and fun-filled camp.

To find out more, see hope on the net to www.aridrecovery.org.au/. For now though, here are some photos from our camp.

Sarah Lindsay
Subject Teacher



Arid Recovery Photos



Year 8 Japanese Garden Excursion

On Monday, 30 May, the year 8 History class went on an excursion to the Himeji Japanese Garden in the city. Himeji, in Japan, has special significance, as it is Adelaide's sister city.

The History class had been studying "Japan under the Shoguns" throughout the term and this excursion was to take a closer look at Japanese culture.

First we went to the Japanese garden, where the students were able to witness the influence of Shinto and Zen on this beautiful piece of nature. For example, there is a little spot at the front gate where visitors can wet their lips from a small pool and a perfectly manicured sand garden. It was so tranquil and pretty and everybody felt really good being there.

Afterwards, we went to Chinatown where the students saw a number of Japanese foods and shops and sampled some delicious Asian cuisine.

The excursion was enjoyed by all.

Kathryn Reeves & Belinda Parker
8 Humanities Teachers



Power Cup

This year our year 10 students Casey Colin-Kenny, Petrina Smart Elisha Umuhuri and Rubin Windlass (with some Woodville High School students) successfully participated in and completed the Aboriginal Power Cup.

The Aboriginal Power Cup is a SACE Stage 1 subject which “uses football to engage young Aboriginal secondary school students in their education and provide pathways into the workforce”.

The theme for the Aboriginal Power Cup for 2016 was ‘Powerful Futures - Your Future, Yours for the Taking’. This theme encouraged students to understand that the world is what you make it and it’s up to you to take your future into your own hands and take the next step from school and straight into employment or further education.

On Saturday morning, everyone that had participated in the Aboriginal Power Cup met near the SA University in the city. As soon as everyone was there, they started the Aboriginal Power Cup Ceremony indoors. The ceremony contained awards like the ‘Winning Polo Shirt Design’, ‘Best Team Work & Effort’, etc.

After the APC ceremony, we walked down to the Adelaide Museum and had lunch. We also checked out the Adelaide Museum Expo. Then we walked down to the Adelaide Oval, performed the Cultural Dance and then just sat back, watching and enjoying the Port Power vs West Coast Eagle footy match.

Elisha Umuhuri
Year 10 Student

(...and also by Sarah Lindsay who edited and added bits)

For more information on the Aboriginal Power Cup visit www.aboriginalpowercup.com.au



Power Cup Photos



Sheidow Park Primary School's Aboriginal Cultural Celebrations

In Week 8 of Term 2, Belinda Parker worked in collaboration with Sheidow Park Primary School to hold an Aboriginal Cultural Appreciation Day. All of the Year 8 and 9 students from Wiltja (14 in total) travelled with their teachers to Sheidow Park to spend the day.

There were numerous workshops which ran throughout the day and Wiltja staff and students helped to run many of them. The primary classes moved from one work station to another in 45 minute intervals. Workshops available were: mini wiltja making, basket weaving, dot painting, cooking, damper in the fire pit, games in the gym and The Dreaming story-telling in the library. At lunch time, we were treated to bush-tucker flavoured ice-creams, such as strawberry gum, lemon myrtle and wattle seed. Some more adventurous people also tried kangaroo bolognaise!

Wiltja staff, and Sheidow Park School alike, were thrilled with how the day went. The Wiltja Secondary College students participated very well and tried their best to run activities and help the little kids learn. It was a great success and we hope to do it again in the future.

Janice Eames
Teacher



Victor Harbor Whale Centre

In Term 2, the Transition class studied 'The Shark', a poem by EJ Pratt. To further the students' understanding of sharks, we travelled down to the Whale Centre at Victor Harbor to explore the Rodney Fox Shark Exhibition.

The hands-on shark experience helped students comprehend and relate to what they were reading in the poem. Naturally, they also learned a great deal about whales and all marine life. After the Whale Centre visit, we had fish and chips in the park, played in the ocean, explored the large piles of seaweed and walked across the jetty to Granite Island.

Jacqui Ellis

Transition Teacher

