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University Campus Newsletter

Issue 5 · 02 Aug 2024

Work Ethic | Excellence | Relationships | Engagement

Kurnai College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we live and work, of the Braiakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

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Message from our Campus Principal



NAIDOC celebration

Each year Kurnai College holds a NAIDOC event celebrating and learning about indigenous culture and showcasing artistic elements including dance, music, painting, landscaping and sculpture. This year the event was held at the University campus. Guest speakers including former students shared their experiences and stories adding further insight for our learning community into the challenges that have been and the value of us

all learning and moving forward together.

This year we had a number of primary schools attend the day and our VCE VM students ran a range of activities for them to engage with such as rock painting, making damper, icing biscuits, storytelling, and playing indigenous games.

A huge thank you to the VCE VM and VPC staff and students who made indigenous slices and biscuits, helped in the kitchen with cooking and cleaning, and the VM SWL students who helped prepare the courtyard and surrounding gardens which look fantastic.

A comprehensive account of the formal activities on the day and photos is included in the College News section of this newsletter.

2025 Information evening

Our campus information evening for students starting in 2025 is on Wednesday 7th August and we welcome any interested families to hear more about the senior campus and what is offered. Quite often we have families contact us due to recommendations made by current families and appreciate this support as we continue to increase our student numbers enabling us to expand our choices and opportunities for students. Further details are available in the Campus News section.

Year 12 Parent Teacher Conversations

Thursday 15th August 3:30pm-7:00pm

As the Year 12 classes finish earlier in term 4 than the Year 11 classes we hold a Parent Teacher Conversations afternoon mid-term to provide more timely updates on how students are travelling toward the culmination of their Year 12 studies. Bookings will be available through Compass and families will be notified when they are opened.

For all other students we will still have the usual Parent Teacher Conversations at the end of term.

Year 11&12 Formal

Students and staff had a wonderful time at the Formal recently. Red Carpet was the theme and it was evident the effort that attendees had gone to prepare for the event. The opportunity for social interaction in a relaxed and fun atmosphere was enjoyed by all. There are photos and a write up in the Campus News section of this newsletter.

Excursions

Students have been out and about on various excursions already this term providing valuable learning experiences and knowledge building for future aspirations. The VCE VM cohort attended the Jobs Skills Expo at Lardner Park, the Year 12 VM Literacy students visited 'The Art of Banksy' and 'Protest Melbourne' exhibitions as part of their Advocacy unit exploring the role of protest art in social change. Our Year 11 VCE VM and VPC students have also visited the Melbourne Holocaust Museum in Elsternwick and were privileged to hear powerful presentations through the 'In Touch with Memory' program.

Parking at front of campus

A reminder that parking on the west side of Northways Road in front of the campus and on the grass on that side is not permitted. Please ensure you support the safety of students in collecting them from the east side in the parking bays, or the car park in the University to the south of our buildings, or alternatively at the leisure centre car park.

Mr Matt Jobling

University Campus Principal



Calendar of Events

Key Dates

Term 3, 2024	
Wed 7 Aug	University Campus Information Evening 5pm - 7.30pm
Mon 12 - Tue 13 Aug	YR 11 Environmental Science Alpine Camp
Tue 13 Aug	Gippsland Senior Region Basketball Finals
Wed 14 Aug	Year 10 Subject Information Day
Thu 15 Aug	Year 12 Parent Teacher Conversations, 3:30pm - 7pm
Thu 22 Aug	Latrobe Regional Gallery Curator Tour
Wed 4 Sep	VET Sport & Rec Hardrock Climbing excursion
Thu 19 Sep	Year 10 & 11 Parent Teacher Conversations, 3:30pm - 7pm
Fri 20 Sep	Year 10 & 11 Parent Teacher Conversations, 10am - 1pm
Fri 20 Sep	Term 3 Ends

Term 4, 2024		
Mon7th Oct	Term 4 Commences	
Wed 23 Oct	Last day of lessons for Year 12 students	
Thu 24 Oct	Year 12 Celebration Day	
Tue 29 Oct - Wed 20 Nov	Year 12 Exams	
Mon 4 Nov	Professional Practice Day - Student Free	
Tue 5 Nov	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	
Thu 21 Nov	College Professional Development Day - Student Free	
Mon 25 Nov - Fri 6 Dec	Year 11 & 12 2025 Headstart TBC	
Tue 3 Dec	College Arts Night	
Wed 11 Dec	Gumbuya World	
Fri 13 Dec	College Awards	

College Key Contacts

For a full list of College wide key contacts please go to:



Campus News

University Campus Information Evening

2025 Year 11 and 12

On Wednesday 7th August, Kurnai College will be holding its Year 11 & 12 Parent Information Evening at the University Campus.

Join us for an informative evening designed for current and prospective families, showcasing our college's Year 11 and 12

programs and subjects for 2025 and beyond.



ars 11 & 12 VCE & VCE

'nai College

OR PATHWAYS

Wednesday 7[™] August 5.15pm - 6:00pm School Tours n Presentation & Info

2025 for ve

The event will begin with school tours at 5:15 pm, followed by the main presentation at 6:00 pm. In addition, information booths highlighting various subjects and initiatives will be on display in the library.

More about the University Campus can be found at https://kurnai.co/university-campus

School Formal

Last Friday, 26th of July Year 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to attend the formal. The students did a great job dressing to the red carpet event theme. There was plenty of food on offer at the Morwell Italian Australian Club and, after the obligatory entry photo taken by our in-house photographer Darren, the students were free to feast. Students also enjoyed the photo booth and DJ, who kept the students dancing until the very end of the event. A

particular highlight was seeing all the students (and most of the teachers) dancing to Tina Turner's Nutbush City Limits.

A big shout-out goes to our fantastic team on the SRC who helped organise the event.



Year 12 Physical Education



On Thursday, 20th June, Year 12 VCE PE students visited Federation University to complete a class with Dr Matt O'Grady. One student completed a V02 Max test and a Lactate Inflexion Point (LIP) test for the rest of the class to observe and analyse. The tests determine the individual's maximum amount of oxygen the body can use and also identify the power output at which lactate accumulation occurs on a cycle ergometer. They also determine endurance capabilities. Another student completed a Wingate test to analyse anaerobic power and anaerobic

capacity. These tests are relevant to the content covered in Units 3 and 4 PE. It was fantastic to see all the students actively engage in the session, and represent Kurnai College exceptionally.

Indigenous Garden

In week one of this term staff from the GLaWAC Indigenous Nursery and Bush Foods Project Manager, Sam Monks, visited our campus. The GLaWAC team brought with them Indigenous plants and Bush Tucker foods, which were added to the Indigenous garden. Located in the courtyard, the garden was unveiled during our NAIDOC week celebrations. The team spoke with our Koorie students, explaining the different plants they brought along, where they can be found and what they can be used for. GLaWAC staff and students then gave the garden a good clean-up and planted the new Indigenous plants alongside our existing natives. We thank the GLaWAC team for their visit and look forward to continuing to work together in the future.



NAIDOC Week

Each year all campuses of Kurnai College hold a BBQ for students and staff acknowledging and celebrating NAIDOC week. We also hold a major event which is rotated annually between each campus and last Thursday this was held at University Campus. A large crowd of visitors including invited dignitaries, guest speakers, other school groups, and families of our Indigenous students celebrated "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud".



Students from the University Campus took a significant role in establishing the Indigenous Garden and preparations for the event (more details in College news).

On the day students witnessed the smoking ceremony, Dedlee Dancers and enjoyed a BBQ lunch.



The VCE VM students assisted with cooking the BBQ and facilitated a range of Indigenous activities for the visiting primary school students, including; rock painting, damper cooking, Indigenous stories and games.





College News

Message from the College Principal



What a cold winter we have all had so far and it certainly hard to jump out of our warm beds each morning. Whilst it's always tempting to stay in bed and keep warm at home, it's really important that our students attend school every day. As a parent, I have often been tempted to give the kids a day off, but I know that those lost hours can add up and have a disastrous effect on students' results and choices. I'm afraid all of us parents need to be cruel to be kind and make sure our kids head off to school

whether it's rain or shine.

I know there will be an article about our NAIDOC week in this issue but I do have to say what a wonderful event we all enjoyed this year at the University campus. It seems to grow bigger and better every year and our thanks go to Marina, Hayden, Hollie, Corine and the Kurnai team for a fabulous week of activities featuring Indigenous culture.

Our college is working hard to build up our teaching team and I know that many parents have been concerned about changes in teachers and unsettled timetables. We have already welcomed four new international teachers and there are three more in the system coming to Kurnai. Let's make sure we welcome them to our Learning Community and give them every opportunity to be successful teachers in our college.

Have a great term, everyone, I'm sure the weather will be improving soon!

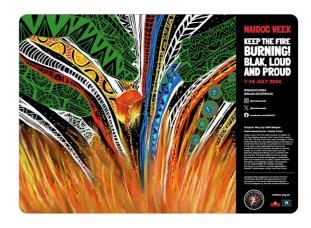
Anthony Rodaughan
College Principal

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Formal Event

Kurnai College celebrated NAIDOC week on Thursday, 25th July to recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Students, local politicians, members of the Indigenous community and Aboriginal Elders gathered at the University campus to attend the event showcasing this year's



theme "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud".

The theme honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture – with the fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other and to the rich tapestry of traditions which define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"Today is a day to share some significant stories and knowledge from several of our guest speakers. At Kurnai College, we continue to learn and respect the First Nations people and hope to strengthen our understanding and connections to ensure that all families feel welcome and accepted within our schools", explained Koorie Education Support Officer, GunaiKurnai man Hayden Edwards.



Aunty Minni (Christine Johnson) conducted a Smoking Ceremony to welcome the guests as they arrived. "The Smoking Ceremony is a traditional Aboriginal custom to welcome visitors to our land, cleanse the area and ward off any bad spirits from the people and the land," said Hayden. Fellow Koorie Education Support Officer, GunaiKurnai and Monaro Ngarigo woman Hollie Johnson commenced the official

proceedings, performing a Welcome to Country in her grandparents' native language on behalf of the Brayakaulung clan of the GunaiKurnai Nation. Kurnai College students Shyann Parry and Matilda Freeman performed an Acknowledgement of Country with Lousie Potts signing in Auslan.

College Principal Anthony Rodaughan addressed the room, welcoming everyone in attendance, "At Kurnai College we have had the fire burning for quite some time. These schools that have been attending our NAIDOC week celebrations are now lighting their own fires, eager to continue this kind of work within their own learning communities".





Mr John Russell, from Frankston High School, has been attending Kurnai College's NAIDOC events over the past few years, with his students and staff. He shared with the audience his growth and understanding of Indigenous culture and how he has taken inspiration from Kurnai College to implement changes in his school, including the initiation to host their own NAIDOC week event.

Cr Darren Howe, Latrobe City Mayor also addressed the audience, speaking of the meaning of NAIDOC and this year's theme.

"This event provides the opportunity to celebrate the rich culture and the enduring strength of the First Nations community that exists in our region". "NAIDOC week is about taking the time to learn



about our First Nations culture and history, and participating in honouring the oldest living culture on earth".

"This year's NAIDOC theme Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud represents the strength and vitality of the First Nations people. By embracing their heritage, we are not only acknowledging the injustices of the past but also forging the path towards reconciliation and mutual understanding".

Kurnai College Indigenous student dance group Dedlee Kultya took to the stage performed three traditional dances, Wooriyl the Lyre Bird, Mungemagebungdula, and Naanaa Nukindhere! The culturally based dances enable the students to connect with their heritage and culture while educating others.





Talia Cooke, a 2021 student graduate, is a 20-year-old Gunai and Gunditjmara woman who is currently in her third year of Medicine at Monash University. She retraced her time attending Kurnai College and her experiences transitioning from secondary school to university as an Indigenous student. As she continues her studies, she hopes to be able to practice medicine and become a doctor for her community.

The college was proud to unveil a commissioned artwork from local artist Nannette Channing (Solomon). Nannette is a passionate and dedicated artist who is passionate about sharing her culture through art and encouraging establishments to display Indigenous artwork.





language.

Special guest, signer song writer, Miranda (Mandy) Garling is a multicultural woman born and raised in Darwin, with Sri Lankan, Indonesian, English, and New Zealand heritage, but also a Bunurong woman who comes from the Koongangi Tribe in Yarrabah, Cairns. Mandy took to the stage to share her story through music. One of the songs she performed is a piece she composed that recognises her Bunurong heritage, the saltwater people of Port Phillip Bay, and is performed in the local

James Solomon, a 2019 student graduate, and Gunaikurnai, Ngario, and Dunghutti man shared his journey of completing Year 12 and then embarking on a career with the Australian Army.

After the formal proceedings, the guests were invited to tour the Indigenous Garden, as part of its official opening.

"Within each of our four campuses, we have worked towards building an area where our Indigenous students have a cultural space that has a welcoming environment, an area that has been filled with native harvest, medicinal and cultural plants," explained Hollie.



Indigenous Garden

Within each of our four campuses, staff, students and community members have worked towards building an area where our Indigenous students have a cultural space that has a welcoming environment, an area that has been filled with native harvest, medicinal and cultural plants.

During NAIDOC week the garden at the University Campus was unveiled.

The east side of the courtyard encompasses laser-cut shields of the five nations of the GunaiKurnai Nation to honour the Brabralung, Krauatungalung, Tatungalung, Brataualung and Brayakaulung people.



On the west side, the entrance to the wellbeing space features a vibrant mural that represents the totems of the Gunaikurnai People, that of wrens flying home and flying away, unsure of their flight path.

Koorie Education Support Officer, Hollie explained, "As we grow up and the coming of age, we see students who come and go, not sure of what career path they are following. Today their dreams will be different from yesterday and tomorrow. The blue in the male wren additionally plays a part in representing mental health as we all experience highs and lows in life".

The mural also includes a gathering circle designed by our Year 12 Indigenous student, Kelvin. The circle serves as a space for cultural learning and connection, where campfire conversations and yarning circles foster



a sense of belonging, reflection, and a chance to gather thoughts calmly. Blue hues are incorporated into the artwork representing mental health, acknowledging the highs and lows that we all experience and the care that Kurnai College takes to nurture its students' holistic health and wellbeing.



A metal sculpture featuring Yeerung the male wren and Djeetgun the female wren are two cleverly crafted birds taking pride of place outside of the advocates' office, which were created by Indigenous student Brayden with guidance from Mr David Frendo. Teacher Brett Gay and staff involved in our Structured Workplace Learning program collaborated with students to design and construct a garden, shaped in the form of the Aboriginal flag, next to the mural. These gardens are planted with Indigenous vegetation and feature totem poles adorned with designs painted by our students, Hayley, Dacoda, and

Krystal along with their peers.

Totem Pole Dedication

A fourth totem pole was unveiled on the day, dedicated to College Principal, Anthony Rodaughan, a Jaadwa man to recognise Anthony's 20-year journey at Kurnai College and his dedication to reconciliation.

Mr Rodaughan's son-in-law Ngarrindjeri man Boadie Motton explained how alongside Koorie Support Wellbeing Coordinator, Marina Cooper they devised a plan to create the totem pole. "We wanted to represent both Indigenous tribes, intertwined



with Anthony's family, all whilst keeping it under wraps from Anthony himself".

"The 18 white dots around the bottom section of the pole represent the 18 tribes that make up the Ngarrindjeri nation (located at the mouth of the Murray River in South Australia)".



"With inspiration from fellow Ngarrindjeri artists, Craig Buchanan and Emma Mays, I wanted to include the turtle and fish within the blue waters which surround the Ngarrindjeri country and the yellow representing the sand banks of the land".

Mr Rodaughan's daughter, Anna explained "As we move up the pole from Boadie's design we have each placed our handprints to signify our family and the connection we all have. From the bottom we painted circles symbolizing the newest unborn family member of

Alex and Ben, our son Ollie's handprint, followed by Boadie's, myself, my brother Louis's, my brother-in-law Ben, my sister Alex's, and my mum, Jenna's. Each print is accompanied by a man or woman symbol connected with dots representing the colours of the Aboriginal Flag. And finally, at the very top, we have our Aunty Beth's painting "the legends". Mr Rodaughan's then placed his handprint in the empty awaiting space.

Reconciliation Plan

Across the four campuses, Kurnai College's continues to implement its Reconciliation Action Plan, which continues to promote and facilitate reconciliation by its continuous approach to building relationships, respect, and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Over the past 6 months, plaques have been installed around the campuses, using Guanikurnai language to identify the different learning spaces and areas of the school. At the Morwell Campus a family meeting room that has been specially designed to make it a comfortable meeting space, absent of the traditional desks and chairs, with indigenous artwork.

Next year there will be an optional Indigenous polo shirt that all students may wear as part of their school uniform.

Music News

NAIDOC Week

Students from across the College came together to provide a beautiful array of musical performances during the NAIDOC Week celebrations at the University campus. It was an immense privilege and a deeply enriching experience for our students to be part of this

significant event. Through our music, we sought to honour and pay our deepest respects to our First Nations peoples, recognising their enduring connection to the land, waters, and culture. This celebration offered us a valuable opportunity to reflect on the rich heritage, history, and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are profoundly grateful for the chance to participate in such a meaningful occasion, standing in solidarity and unity with Australia's First Peoples.



Monash Medical Orchestra

Our staff and students are eagerly anticipating our collaboration with the Monash Medical Orchestra. This year's event promises to be a spectacular musical celebration, bringing together Kurnai alumni, current staff, and students for an unforgettable night of live entertainment. Under the direction of Maestro Robert Dora, Kurnai Staff and students will join forces with the Monash Medical Orchestra and jazz ensembles. The event provides a fantastic opportunity for our performing art students to showcase their musical talents to the broader community.

We warmly invite you all to join us for a celebration of musical excellence on



Saturday 17th August from 5-7PM at Federation University Auditorium building 3E. This is one event you won't want to miss. We look forward to seeing you there!

Primary Schools Tour

In weeks **7 and 8 of this term**, our music students from Years 7 to 12 will be visiting several local primary schools including Churchill, Churchill North, Boolarra, Yinnar, Morwell Park, and Morwell Central.

These workshops promise to be engaging, informative, and interactive, providing a wonderful opportunity to build connections with our local primary schools. We are excited about the upcoming visits and hope that our workshops will inspire and ignite a passion for music among our younger audiences.

Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod

Students from across the College will participate in the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod, showcasing their talents in a range of sections including V.C.E. solo performance, solo piano, concert band, and instrumental ensembles. We wish all our students the very best of luck!

Kurnai's Got Talent:



KGT is back for another year, and we couldn't be more excited! This highly anticipated event offers an incredible opportunity for all students to showcase their talents, compete for exciting prizes, and battle it out for the prestigious title of Kurnai's Got Talent Champion! Auditions for this year's event will take place during Weeks 9 and 10 of this term and continue into Weeks 1 and 2 of Term 4. We encourage all students to sign up and be part of this fantastic experience. Whether you're a seasoned performer or trying something new, Kurnai's Got Talent is the perfect way to showcase your abilities.

Mr Chris Gretton

College Music Coordinator

Sports News

Senior Basketball

On Friday 19th of July, Kurnai College's Senior Boys basketball team participated in the Wellington District Interschool Basketball at Gippsland Regional Sports Stadium in Traralgon.

The Senior Boys Basketball team had an impressive run to the final with wins against Traralgon College (45 – 23) and Sale College (41 – 25),



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showcasing their skills and teamwork. Although they narrowly missed out on the final victory against Seda, they put up a good fight and demonstrated strong basketball abilities.

Overall, it was a fantastic day of sportsmanship and achievement for Kurnai College on and off the court.

The Senior Girls team progress to the next stage uncontested and will compete at the Gippsland Regional Finals later in the term.



General Information



2024 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS / GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation.

Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey will be open online from **Monday 29 July to Friday 30 August 2024.** All families will be invited to participate in the survey, instructions and a link to complete the survey will be distributed via Compass in the week commencing 29th July.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The online survey will be available in English and 10 other languages including Arabic, Greek, Hakha Chin, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Somali, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Resources are also available in additional languages to assist parents/caregivers/guardians who speak a language other than English at home. Please reach out to the school directly for survey guides in your language. Please contact the general office if you would like more information.

Sustainable School Shop



SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL SHOP

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Second-hand Textbooks

Simply

- Register on the Sustainable School Shop website - www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au
- A subscription to this service has been kindly provided by Kurnai College

Second-hand textbook trading system

- List Wanted & For Sale Ads (Browsers tell each other what they require and what they have to sell).
- The school's booklists are loaded into the system to make the Ad listing process easy, fast and accurate.
- · Assistance is provided to accurately price items.
- Our Ad Matching service shows you
 - Exactly the right items to buy
 - Who has the most items you need
 - The cheapest items
- Buyers contact Sellers, and arrange where and when to transact.
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Helpful tips

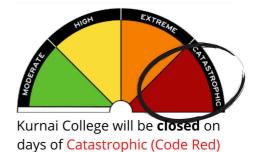
- · Be patient many new items are listed each day
- · Listing Wanted and For Sale Ads gets results
- Our unique Ad Matching Service shows you who to transact with, and will save you lots of time

urnai

- Be realistic when pricing items
- Telephoning sellers provides a guicker response as many people do not regularly check their emails
- Pre-arrange who to transact with if your items are still being used and write the availability date in your Ad
- Respect other browsers and remember to Delist your Ads promptly when no longer needed
- Meet somewhere convenient to transact, don't make special trips and just fit it in to your normal activities

Code Red Fire Danger

A reminder to all families, that on days of Code Red in the West & South Gippsland Fire Zone, both the Churchill and University campuses will be closed. This is a change to previous years, and we ask families to be aware of this in



Fire Rating

preparation.



Community News

Get Active Kids

Eligible children, (aged 0-18 and named on a valid and issued Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and Medicare card) may receive up to \$200 to cover the costs for membership and registration fees. Applications will open in Spring 2024.



Latrobe Cricket Club

INTERESTED IN CRICKET?

Now is your chance to give it a crack!



The Latrobe Cricket Club is running a come and try session for any girls and boys interested within the Under 10's, 12's, 14's and 16's age groups!

Every participant will receive a sausage and a drink after the session

The session will run on Friday the 2nd of August from 3:30pm until 5:00pm at Maryvale Recreation Reserve - Peter Siddle Oval -The home of the Sharks



For season 2024/25, Latrobe CC's superstar Irish recruit, Sam Wilson, will be involved with the development of all junior cricketers.



For further information please contact the Latrobe Cricket Club ria our facebook page by scanning the QR code or through email -Latrobecricketclub@outlook.com

Latrobe City Council





If you wish to promote your sporting club, community group or non-for-profit organisation in our school newsletter please email <u>kurnai.co@education.vic.gov.au</u>