

SCHOOL CAMP AT BEECHWORTH

In the first week of December, staff and students rounded out the 2016 school year with the school camp in the historic town of Beechworth.

After getting there and unpacking, the first afternoon was spent playing different sorts of



James (Year 12) looking triumphant in one of the survivor games activities

“survivor games”. These involved various feats of strength and skills, and even the staff got into them to prove their worth!

The next day gave students an opportunity for catharsis after the year by playing laser tag. After dinner, they went to the Mayday Hills Lunatic Asylum, now defunct, for ghost tours around the creepy, old asylum.



Sean (Year 11), Scott, Marina (Year 10), Ellen (Year 12), Francesca, Ruby (Year 11), and Nira (Year 10) on their walk

On Wednesday, a small crew set off to try another long, challenging walk, as is the Alia College camp tradition, while others stayed at the campsite to relax, play games, or hang out at the pool.

After another bus trip back to Alia, it was time to say goodbye for the holidays, as school finished for 2016.

Saskia (Year 8), Hex, Joey (Year 10), and Ash, and Piper (Year 9) enjoying the falls



YEAR 12 GRADUATION

Article by Joseph Green (Year 11)

As we have, at long last, reached the end of the year, it once again comes time to say farewell to the Year 12s. Because they graduated. We didn't murder them or anything, just to clarify...



The Year 12s with their graduation certificates and their teachers

Naturally there was an Alia-style ceremony, organised mostly by the graduated themselves (with help from me, actually. Well, some.), held at the the school. For those who weren't there, our graduation ceremonies function a little differently from those held by mainstream schools. For one, they're actually fun, and not agonisingly painful; stories are told, gifts are given, and there has been significantly less animal sacrifice this year, ever since us vegans started gaining more influence. Scott and Amanda ran this section of the ceremony this year, carefully selecting the stories and gifts for the students graduating.

We even had a magnificent after-party, again organised by the graduates, which lasted well



Scott and Ellen (Year 12)

into the night and was a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

But, alas, like every graduation, it is a bitter-sweet time. The Year 12s have been an astoundingly positive influence on the school, and a much-cherished body of the student population has left the school, never to return. They will go on to adult-ish life; what paths shall they tread? University? A tour of the world? Jail? We shall see. But in regards to some students, Scott and I actually have some money on jail.

Nonetheless, congratulations to all of you for getting through the arbitrary rigours of VCE. And also a thank you to the band, Strathmore Street, who performed at the after-party. It was rad.



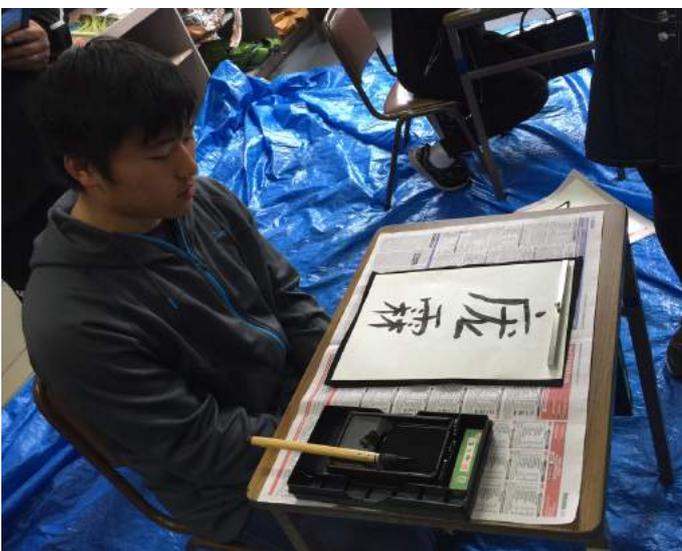
Amanda and Josephine (Year 12)

VISIT TO THE JAPANESE SCHOOL OF MELBOURNE



Alia and JSM students playing giant soccer at lunchtime

Alia College students again continued the annual tradition of day visits and hosting with the Japanese School of Melbourne, in Caulfield. Earlier this year, students from the Japanese School of Melbourne spent a day at Alia College, participating in lots of different activities, and, in November, Alia College students got to experience a day at the Japanese School of Melbourne, learning traditional calligraphy, playing sports, and practising their Japanese, of course.



Lin (Year 9) practising calligraphy

SPRING ARTS NIGHT

Article by Joseph Green (Year 11)

As many of you, dear readers, may be aware, Alia College recently hosted our annual Arts Night. I imagine many of you were there, in which case, feel free to stop reading. You were there, you know what happened. Good day to you. I said good day! For those of you who weren't there, stick around. Read on.



Briony, Alex, and Eliza (Year 10) performing as part of the year 10 Music class at Arts Night

Quite simply, Arts Night is a presentation of artworks of various media. Visitors are invited to peruse the workings of the students at their leisure, and maybe help themselves to the free food. God knows that's the only reason I went. Typically at Arts Night, students from across all year levels will present the musical and dramatic performances they have been working on throughout the year. Guests were treated to not one, but two plays, the latter of which I sadly missed. The Juniors presented a comedic performance, while the Year 10s, I'm told, displayed an alternative piece of more physical theatre.

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And who, of course, could forget the brief concert that is the musical performances? From what I've been told, and seen on video, no-one could, that's for sure. It was like almost everything about the night was absolutely fabulous.

SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Article by Jeremy Warren-Foody

For many, many years now, the Year 9-12s' last week of school before camp has been Skills and Development Week. This week is full of programs, workshops, presentations, and excursions aimed at teaching students practical life skills they will use outside the classroom. Students make suggestions for the sorts of things they would like to learn. Like so many things at Alia, Skills and Development Week is shaped by the students' interests, and looks a bit different each year.

This year, Skills and Development week included a tour of Headspace and Boroondara Youth Services, as well as some presentations there, in-house mindfulness sessions run by Harriet, workshops on tax from the ATO, budgeting and saving money from the Commonwealth Bank, leasing, buying a car, and mobile phone plans from Consumer Affairs Victoria, accredited barista training, RSA, and CPR training, a vegan cooking class from Scott, and archery tag.

YEAR 9 CITY EXPERIENCE



Amanda and the Year 9s at Thank You Co.

At the end of each year, the Year 9 class participates in the City Experience program, designed to showcase to students the different services and organisations around Melbourne, and what sort of jobs they provide there.

This year included a walking tour of the CBD, tours of Etihad stadium and Thank You Co., visits to ACMI, The Melbourne Star, Medibank Icehouse, and a French crêperie and Japanese restaurant for students to enhance their language studies!

Josh, Patrick, Molly, Keith (Year 9), and Harriet enjoy crêpes at La Petite Crêperie in the CBD.



ALUMNI GATHERING

This year, Alia College held its second annual Alumni Gathering. This gathering was a chance to see some familiar faces and catch up with Alia College alumni across all years.

A special slideshow was set up for the 2006 graduates to mark their 10 years since graduating high school, with plenty of embarrassing photos in among the nice ones. Tomer also put together a slideshow of other pictures from different years throughout the school's past, which proved to be very fascinating and entertaining indeed.

The Alia College Alumni Gathering is one way the school tries to stay connected to those who are no longer here; to build on those connections, and foster a sense of community spirit among graduates, past students, and staff.

All in all, it was great evening of reminiscing, catching up, and even some dancing!



Bob and Paul (2012 alumnus) catch up at the Alia College Alumni Gathering

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY KAYAKING TRIP

For their studies in Year 11 Geography, Andrew took Emily and Spiro to Warrandyte where they went kayaking on the Yarra River, along with Erin, the pre-service teacher. It was good weather, and they had a fun time doing it!



Emily and Spiro (Year 11) with pre-service teacher Erin kayaking on the Yarra River

TRIP TO JAPAN

Over the break, Yuri, Alia College's Japanese teacher, is in Japan with Mikaela (Year 12) and Ryo (Year 11). They'll be exploring the sights of the country, and having a chance to practise their Japanese before returning in January.



YEAR 12

MUCK-UP DAY

Article by Jeremy Warren-Foody

One of the joys about starting work earlier in the morning is the peace and tranquility around the school. It is an opportunity to get things done in a calm, quiet environment. Muck-up day, however, is different. I already knew things would be interesting when Ray texted me to say that I should be warned about what might be in store. Though this was kind, nothing could really have prepared me for what I was about to walk into.

At first, I was quite impressed and enthralled with what I saw. The foyer was gently illuminated by fairy lights, continuing up the stairs, and it really did look nice. However, this illusion was soon shattered when I entered the office. The door was covered, and yes I do mean covered, with pictures of me, photoshopped into famous paintings, such as Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, Munch's *The Scream*, and even one terrible one of me holding "Vote Trump" placard! I have never been so thoroughly perturbed in all my life. As if this horror were not enough, upstairs, through the cardboard maze and into the French Room, underneath all of the delightfully thoughtful notes left by the Year 12s to the students of the school, were plastered yet again more pictures of me, photoshopped onto paintings of Napoleon! Zut alors! They did manage to make up for all their tricks with an huge jumping castle in the car park, though, so all's well that ends well, I guess.

YEAR 11 THEATRE

STUDIES

Article by Joseph Green (Year 11)

One of the highlights of 2016 for me was that, at Alia College, this was the first year in some time in which VCE Theatre Studies was running. It would seem enough students were interested for the class to be viable, and let me tell you, both of us were very excited.

Under the guidance of Alia College's new Drama teacher, Josh, a unique opportunity presented itself: that of a not-too-shabby Drama budget. Accordingly, Hex, Josh, and I reluctantly decided that it was *highly academically necessary and beneficial* for us as students of the theatre to use that budget to purchase tickets to whatever we like liked the look, uh, *deemed necessary to enrich our learning*. And so over the year we attended a number of performances, some of which were even relevant to what we were studying for research. And assessment purposes. Naturally this was a diverse and fascinating hoot; from classics like *Romeo and Juliet* and the misleadingly-named *Lady Macbeth*, to the political *Blaque Showgirls* and even the risqué *Dangerous Liaisons*. Each was an engrossing spectacle, looking upon them with the careful eyes of a theatre student, looking carefully for the application of stagecraft and the doctrines of theatrical styles, all made that much better because it cost me nothing! Joseph Green: sticking it to the man since 1999.

Returning to a modicum of seriousness, though, we're very appreciative of the opportunities provided to us by the school, and of the experience of seeing professional pieces of quality theatre. Well, except for *Lady Macbeth*; it was just a reproduction of *Macbeth* but without all the fun bits, and with an alarming bunch of Scottishness.

COMINGS, GOINGS, AND MORE BABIES

Article by Jeremy Warren-Foody

This term has been a big one, with plenty of comings, some very sad goings, and even more babies too!

We were sad to see the backs of Alice, Cory, and Hagan this term, as they have each been such a strong, positive presence within Alia College. We wish you all the best of luck, and of course, should you ever wish to return, there will be a place for you!

It isn't all doom and gloom; we also have some new staff joining the school in 2017. Alessandro will be taking over Latin from Hagan in Years 8, 9, and 10; Barbara has returned to take Year 12 French; Giselle will be taking on Year 7 Latin; Jacqui will be joining us to take Year 11 English; and Jess will be taking Year 9 and 10 Art while Sheena and Sara are on parental leave.

Apropos of new parents, we want to wish Sara and Rory a big congratulations on the birth of their second child, Charlie. Congratulations are also due to Andrew and his wife Alice on the birth of their first child, Pippa. We wish both sets of parents the very best!

Finally, we also extend a warm welcome to all those students who have joined the Alia College community this term; to Amelie, Ruby (Year 7), Paul (Year 8), Lin (Year 9), Alex, Kaimana, and Steph (Year 10) - welcome to Alia College!

And to all of you, we wish you a safe and pleasant holiday, and a happy new year!

Andrew and his wife, Alice, with their baby daughter, Pippa Louise



Term I, 2017 Calendar Dates

<i>Australia Day Public Holiday</i>	Thursday, 26 January
STUDENTS COMMENCE	FRIDAY, 27 JANUARY; 9.00AM
Whole School Orientation Camp	Tuesday, 31 January-Friday, 3 February
Information Night	Monday, 27 February; 7.15PM
Trivia Night	Friday, 24 February
<i>Labour Day Public Holiday</i>	Monday, 13 March
Boroondara Leadership Week	TBA
Information Night	Wednesday, 22 March; 7.15PM
STUDENTS FINISH	FRIDAY, 31 MARCH

Et Al is the newsletter of Alia College

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