

## SCHOOL CAMP AT WARRNAMBOOL



Article by Francesca Bracewell

On Tuesday, 31 January, the students of Alia College once again embarked on a journey to the white shores of the unknown. Having never camped at this strange place they call Warrnambool, Benny (Year 9), thought this location to be an ideal choice. And he wasn't wrong! We arrived, after a long 3 hours of driving to a field of green grass all to ourselves. Tents were erected, food was stored safely away, and a meeting was had before freedom was granted! The beach was only a short 5-minute walk from our campsite, and as long as people left in groups of three and/or had a staff member to watch over them whilst they took to the depths of the sea (not actually that deep, only knee deep), students and staff were pretty much free to roam their new home until dinner time.

Day 2 consisted of strange sports they call snorkelling and surfing. Students were bussed to Port Fairy where they were able to swim amongst the little fishies and the pretty coral. Afterwards, students were off to surf the wilder side of the ocean. According to those staff and students who went, it was a pretty ace day! The lazier people

left at the campsite enjoyed a more relaxed day in the sunshine either choosing to explore the large town of Warrnambool, walking the white shores of the coastline or playing a good old game of cricket. There was also a park close by to the campsite with a flying fox which drew the attention of many students, and myself – a good step to conquering a fear of heights.

Day 3 woke to grey skies and some light drizzle. Not exactly the best weather to be riding a horse, however, by the time it came to riding, the sun was glowing and the clouds were tumbling far from sight. A handful of students rode these majestic beasts along the beach for a good hour and half. Later that day, Andrew and Kirsty took some students and staff to Tower Hill, a dormant volcano which has been turned into a little oasis for native animals and wildlife. The emus were particularly eye catching, if not somewhat intimidating.

Day 4 came around all too quickly! It was time to say goodbye to this new but now-familiar land of Warrnambool.



Ryo (Year 12), Otis (Year 11), and Tom (Year 10)

After cleaning the camp site and quickly sneaking in some last-minute smoothies from the kiosk, it was time to embark on another, but less exciting, journey towards home. Thanks Jeremy for organising the wonderful campsite, the fun activities and the yummy meals. Also, thank you to Benny for choosing the location! Bonza!

Saskia (Year 9) and Sarah (Year 10) enjoying the ten-pin bowling



## TRIVIA NIGHT 2017

Article by Jeremy Warren-Foody

As a former student, I have many great memories of participating in Alia College trivia nights, and I was excited to take over the reigns from Hagan a few years ago in organising trivia nights. Planning the questions for a trivia night is always an interesting process. Some areas come more easily than others. I have never been particularly gifted in maths or sports, but, thanks to the internet, I got there in the end!

It was great to see the Ballroom completely packed with Alia community members this year, and spirits stayed high through the evening. One of Alia's great strengths, at least in my opinion, is the sense of community that develops among students, families, staff, and others, and seeing that displayed at events like trivia nights really drives that home.

Congratulations to the satirically-named Last Night in Sweden, who took first place for the evening! Well done!



Benny (Year 9) at Trivia Night

## UN SAC DE BILLES

Article by Harriet Morgan

On Tuesday, 21 March, Years 10, 11 and 12 students of French (Nikita, Marina, Sarah, Kovu, Tom, Kyrill and Patrick) plus some Year 10s who are doing Alternate Language class (Ash and Kaleb) went on an excursion to see a French film, *Un sac de billes* ('Bag of Marbles'), at Kino Cinema on Collins St.

The movie was part of the 2017 French Film Festival and was specifically chosen to appeal to high school students of French. The film was based on the true story of Joseph Joffo, a Jewish boy, the youngest of four brothers, whose family were forced to flee from Paris in 1940 when the Germans invaded.



The story follows the experiences of Joseph and his brother Maurice over the next four years, as time and time again they had to escape from the Nazis, and French collaborators, before finally being reunited with the rest of their family at the end of the war.

It was an incredibly moving film, all the more so for being a true story. It showed much of the natural beauty of France, as well as the individual acts of sacrifice and bravery shown by those who resisted the Germans during the War. This period of history is studied in depth in Year 12 French, so it was a perfect tie-in for Nikita, as well as being an enjoyable excursion for us all.

## WWI EXCURSIONS

Article written with the help of Janet Lewis

In a cross-curricular study of World War One, the Junior class visited both the Shrine of Remembrance for a guided tour, as well as the opportunity to dress up in era-appropriate costumes and see actual WWI equipment, and local war memorials in Kew, Balwyn, and Surrey Hills for a “Janet-guided tour” to learn more about the events and impact of the war in Australia. This has been part of their English and HaSS studies for Term One.



The Junior class at the Shrine of Remembrance



Joe (Year 7), Jack, Vincent (Year 8), and Charlotte (Year 7) in WWI-era outfits

## LAPTOP PROGRAM

Article by Max Saarelaht, IT Administrator

I remember when I was a student at Alia. We didn't have computers. Instead, when we needed information, we would take turns riding on each other's backs to the local library. There, a bearded shaman fed us dried fruit infused with the knowledge we sought. Simpler times.

A lot has changed since then. The library eventually closed, and Scott decided to join us on-campus. We've also introduced a student laptop program. All Alia College students are now eligible to receive a laptop on loan from the school for the duration of their studies. There's no cost to access the program, and students are free to take the laptops home and use them as they please.

I've been doing my best to get these laptops into students' hands, and a number are now in use (and going well, I hear!) If Jeremy stops bothering me with all of his personal issues I should have the rest of them ready to go in time for the start of Term Two.

Anyone who hasn't signed up yet can obtain the necessary form by emailing [it@alia.vic.edu.au](mailto:it@alia.vic.edu.au)

# SCHOOL PRODUCTION: *THE FROGS*

A note from the director, Joseph (Year 12)

Greetings dear reader,

I assume you're here out of an interest in our little production. Well, you've come to the right place. Take a seat kiddo, get comfy, take off your shoes.

The Frogs is an ancient Athenian play by Aristophanes (who, if you didn't know, invented comedy). It's about the adventure of the god Dionysus and his faithful servant- well, slave, Xanthias. They travel into the underworld to resurrect an old playwright in order to save Athens from it's impending disaster. For some reason. I'm not sure why.

I'll be perfectly honest with you, reader, when I first read this play I didn't like it. 'This isn't my kind of play' I declared, 'I just want to do Rocky Horror. That's all I want. All I crave in life.' But alas we could not do Rocky Horror. I forget why. And so, we were stuck with Aristophanes' The Frogs. But I wasn't done, oh no, and so we decided to rewrite it.

Alex B, Saskia, and Paul (Year 9) constructing sets



Kovu (Year 10) testing out the make up for the production

Obviously we had to, because the original play is very long and hard to understand, given that it was written in Ancient Greek. So, we tweaked it a little, condensed it, updated the language and also completely reversed the thematic premise of the original play. Our The Frogs is very different from Aristophanes' The Frogs; it doesn't even have frogs in it. That's right, no frogs for you!

Our play is unapologetically a leftie, vegan, innuendo-laced, hippie show. The thing about old Grecian and Shakespearean plays is that society as a whole has moved on, changed, as societies often do. You have to be rather into old plays to enjoy the incomprehensible language and outdated values they contain. We, on the other hand, are young people, with new ideas and beliefs and views; and those ideas, beliefs and views are just as valid and important as those of old white dudes who died a million years ago.



Some might even say they're more relevant. But those people are probably millennials that more old white dudes label as lazy, homosexual good-for-nothings. Well, forget that. This is our play, and we refuse to apologise for it. Well, it's Aristophanes' play, but it's our adaptation, and the point still remains.

Despite all this, I for one like to think that we have indeed captured the essence of a Greek comedy. Our play is a satire, as the original play was, but rather than produce something that satirises the political state of affairs of a city in Greece over two-thousand years ago, we decided to produce something that satirises the political state of affairs today. A certain political affair in particular. Quite a big one. Like really big, and somewhat horrifying. I'll give you a hint; it rhymes with 'Tronald Dump'. The shrewder readers amongst you might be able to take a pretty good guess about what I'm talking about, and as for the rest, come see the play!

Vincent (Year 8) in the middle of a different sort of set construction



Georgia (Year 12) and Alex (Year 11) trying out the toga costumes

All shall be revealed. And that'll be all from me folks. If you find any of my criticism of old white dudes slightly discomforting, I'll leave you on a philosophical note; a story goes that Socrates was told he was the wisest man alive. He disagreed, and went to see all the wise men of Athens. While he found that most of them were very skilled in one particular aspect of life, but that they believed this gave them the right to tell everyone else what to do, just because they were really good at checkers compared to young people of the day. Socrates also wrote the lyrics to Rocky Horror's Time Warp and never wore shoes.

# KITCHEN GARDEN REVIVAL

As part of her Grub Club class with the Juniors, Chloé has been bringing the famed kitchen garden back to life. With Year 12 Ruby's help, she and the Juniors have selected a bunch of appropriate plants and, after preparing the garden beds and soil, have put them in the ground.

The kitchen garden was originally built in 2008 and 2009 with the assistance of School-Focused Youth Services, Cultivating Community, and members of the Alia College community. While interest has waxed and waned since that time, the garden is now experiencing a renaissance, which is wonderful! We look forward to seeing all of the delightful things to come out of it!

Alex (Year 8), Rupert, Charlotte (Year 7), Vincent (Year 8), and Joe working on the kitchen garden



# SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

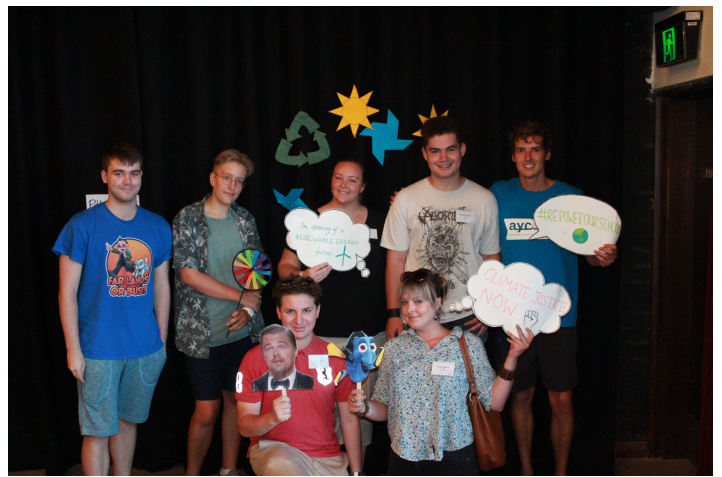
Article written with the help of Chloé Nichols

For two days in March, Global Politics students attended a summit run by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. The summit focused on educating students about the problems of climate change, and related to part of the Global Politics curriculum,

which looks at youth in politics. The summit taught students how to educate others about the effects of climate change, and students and teachers were educated in how to make their schools more sustainable, and students were challenged to come up with ways to advance this in their own schools.

Alia College students have decided to make a film about climate change to show at Arts Night and to incorporate student art that has or uses recyclable materials.

George (Year 12), Charlie, Aaron (Year 11), Kim, Chloe, and Michael (Year 11)



# YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY

Article written with the help of Andrew Lockrey

This term, the Year 12 Geography class took a field trip to the Tootgarook Wetlands, behind Rosebud, to look at the impact of nearby human development on the wetlands. Students gathered data in order to write reports on that impact.

In addition to this, the class took a ride on the Arthurs Seat chairlift, which was not only fun, but also gave a full view of the wetlands.



# PSYCH EXCURSION

On Wednesday, 15 March, the Year 11 Psychology class went on an excursion to the University of Melbourne's Harry Brookes Anatomy and Pathology Museum to supplement their study of the human brain and nervous system.

They were given a guided tour around the museum, which is not normally open to the public. The museum was filled with preserved specimens (i.e. real body parts) that had been donated. Among these were both normal and abnormal specimens, which related to the class' study of certain brain conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease, and stroke.

Yossi, Emma, Mack, Jess, and Ilana (Year 11) at the University of Melbourne



# HELLOS & GOODBYES

Article by Francesca Bracewell

With cheery-eyed and refreshed faces joining us for another exciting year at Alia College, we have some new Alians to welcome and others to farewell.

Firstly, we would like to welcome back to the Alia College family Barbara and Janet.

Barbara is teaching Year 12 French, while Janet is teaching Junior English, Junior HaSS, Year 11 History and Year 12 Classical Studies; it is wonderful to have you both around the school once again! We would also like to welcome Alessandro who is teaching advanced Year 8 and 9 Latin and Year 10 Latin; Giselle who is assisting Bob with Junior Latin; Jacqui who is taking Year 10 HaSS, Year 11 Classical Studies, Year 11 English and Year 12 English Language; Jess who is teaching Year 7-10 Art, and Kim who is teaching Year 7-9 Science, VCE Biology and Year 11 Health and Human Development. Welcome one and all!

We also extend a warm welcome to all those students who have joined the Alia College community this term; Jack, Jonah (Year 8), Annise, Cameron (Year 10), Dion, Benson, Queena, and Toni (Year 11), Georgia and Ida (Year 12) – Welcome to Alia! Finally, we extend our congratulations to Art teacher Sheena and her husband Seth on the birth of their third daughter, Soraya Demi VanDerPluym, born 17 January at 11.25am weighing 3kgs. We can't wait to meet her!

We would also like to farewell Connor (Year 8), Meadow, Yehuda (Year 9), Maximilian (Year 10), Issac, Shimon and Yossi (Year 11). We hope you have thoroughly enjoyed your time at Alia and wish you all the best in your future!

Sheena's family; Kira, Seth, Soraya, and Heidi



## Term II, 2017 Calendar Dates

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<i>Easter Monday Public Holiday</i>	<i>Monday, 17 April</i>
STUDENTS COMMENCE	WEDNESDAY, 19 APRIL; 9.00AM
<i>ANZAC Day Public Holiday</i>	<i>Tuesday, 25 April</i>
Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews	Wednesday, 26 April; 4.30pm
School Production Dates	Thursday, 27 - Saturday, 29 April
Information Night	Thursday, 11 May; 7.15pm
<i>Report Writing Day (No School)</i>	<i>Friday, 9 June</i>
<i>Queen's Birthday Public Holiday</i>	<i>Monday, 12 June</i>
Information Night	Wednesday, 14 June; 7.15pm
STUDENTS FINISH	FRIDAY, 23 JUNE

*Et Al* is the newsletter of Alia College

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