

END OF YEAR CAMP TO EUROA

Article by Oscar (Yr 8)

Camp this year was so fun. The whole school went to Euroa camping and caravan park. It was about a two hour drive to get there.

The first camp day started as you would expect: we left at about 9am and everyone was really pumped for the day. Once we got onto the home stretch there was a familiar aura about the place. The very reliable company Oscot (Oscar and Scott, the camp organisers) assured us that this park was an amazing, never seen before beautiful and fun campsite. As we approached, we found that it was just the campsite we went to two camps ago. But people were still happy. We got out of the bus and chose the spots where we would set up our tents. As it turned out everyone just chose the spot they had last time.

Once everyone was settled in, we had a whole school meeting, where we heard some bad news. Laser tag was cancelled because there were not enough people to play, but that was okay, no one really minded. The rest of the day was spent eating great food, while some people set out to find the local shops, some played card games and others just chilled in their tents. Most of the days went



Alia alum Charlie (Class of 2018) at Polly McQuinn's Weir.

like that. Every now and then people went to see the sun set and go to waterfalls which were not too far away.

You have to remember this was a very small camp group this year, so we didn't do a lot. But that's what I liked about the camp. We were right next to a river and it was really quiet and serene. I feel like everyone, including me, had an amazing time

I must say my favourite part about the whole camp was on the second night when I headed up to the kitchen for



Vincent (Year 10) and Amber (a special guest at this year's camp) at Mt Wombat.

some water and ended up staying till almost 4am. Matt (Year 12), Bob and Tomer were having a very heated debate and it was so fun and hilarious. Those four hours went by so fast, just like camp. I feel like I blinked, and it was done.

On the last day we all woke up, packed our things away, hopped on the bus and headed back to school where we said our goodbyes and left school for the last time this year. Well, everyone except me. I stayed there for two hours asleep on the couch, then bought Nando's, then unpacked my locker. Then I went home and proceeded to sleep for 12 hours, as I only got eight hours of sleep on camp all up.

BIRDS OF EUROA

Article by Lachlan (Class of 2018)

Lachlan, the resident birdman here. On camp I like to look and listen out for all the birds I can find. This year was no different, below you will find a list of the birds I encountered on my camping journey this year in Euroa: Noisy miner, indian myna, bell miner, magpie lark, magpie, little raven, pied currawong, blue-faced hon-

eyearer, reed warbler, pacific black duck, wood duck, domestic mallard, galah, little corela, long-billed corela, sulphur crested cockatoo, little lorikeet, king parrot, house sparrow, willie wagtail, eurasian blackbird, spotted pardalote, white-faced heron.

Feel free to contact me with any bird related questions on Facebook or my email locohasemail@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019

Article by Hagan (English Teacher)

Each year a group of students come to the end of their time at Alia and turn their thoughts to what comes next (or, we hope, to some well deserved rest before thinking about what comes next). This year was no exception, with 10 students graduating in a ceremony held at Alia. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck for the future. Remember to stay in touch!



The Class of 2019 with their teachers.

JAPAN TRIP

Article by Jonothan (Year 11)



4.30am at Melbourne Airport, about to embark.

At the end of Term IV, ten students, three past students and two teachers went to Japan for two weeks on an educational tour of international culture, world food, mind-blowing architecture and Alia style drama. On the trip the 15 of us visited Osaka, which is a large metropolis known mainly for its food culture and places like Osaka castle. Although our visit in the city was short it definitely left an impression... During our visit to Osaka castle a couple with pamphlets came up to us and invited us all to attend a tea ceremony, free of charge, all we had to do was follow these complete strangers, get in their cars and drive to a temple not too far away. Wary of the legitimacy of the experience and that we wouldn't have to pay for anything a small group

Taking a break from cycling along the Kama river in Kyoto.



Visiting Osaka Castle.

of us jumped at the offer. Everyone in the group turned gps tracking on and went off to the matcha tea ceremony. As it turned out none of us were in any danger. We performed a traditional tea ceremony that had been passed down from the Samurai for hundreds of years and performed a prayer that stayed a running joke for the rest of the trip. We left feeling grateful for the very sacred and rare experience. Osaka was great, although short, now it was time for a tired group of travellers to journey to Kyoto.

Kyoto was definitely one of the more low-key cities. There were many temples, wider roads and older archi-





At Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto.

ture but it wasn't something to miss. In Kyoto we visited Kyoto tower, many temples, cycled through the city streets and along the Kamo river and drank weird Japanese energy drinks. The thing that brought the entire group the most joy would have to have been the donut shop at Kyoto central station. Who needs world renowned architecture and first class food? Japanese glazed donuts are all we need. Other than eating delicious mouth watering glazed pastries, many cool things happened — one of the students, Kelly (Year 7), rode a bike for the first time, we pet deer and learned temple etiquette at Nara Park, went to great restaurants and took the bullet train to Tokyo.



In Arashiyama Bamboo Forest near Kyoto.

At this point in the trip most of us were completely drained of energy, but we tried to pull through. Tokyo is the city of lights, it's enormous and busy. We went to



At the summit of Mt Takao with Mt Fuji in the background.

Sega arcades, karaoke, the Studio Ghibli Museum, hikes, Miraikan science museum, Akihabara Electric City, shopping in Shibuya and more temples. A part of the trip to Tokyo that will stay with me is when a small group of us went to a mountain and hiked to the summit. We had great conversations on the way up on subjects like starting your own city, zombie movies, the magnitude of Tokyo compared to Melbourne and people taking breaks because of the exhaustion that comes with hiking. Getting to the top of the mountain and seeing Mount Fuji was amazing. We took some funny panoramas. It was very special.

Though most of us were tired it was a really amazing experience seeing the city, getting to know people I may not have ever talked to, building friendships and becoming a little Alia family. Thank you to Yuri for organizing this trip and Hagan and Yuri for supervising with the help of Friday and past students Jess and Mikaela.



And if being in Japan wasn't exciting enough, Rupert (right, Year 10) had a birthday party!

THE FRENCH CONNECTION IN ALIA IS ALIVE AND WELL

Article by Harriet (French Teacher)



Kyrill (Year 11) and his sister in Paris.

The end of last year saw Alia's first student visit France as part of their VCE French studies: Kyrill spent 5 weeks in Aix en Provence, staying with Fleur and her family. He attended Fleur's high school for a few weeks, *Lycée Sacré Coeur*, and then travelled to Paris, and beyond! It was an incredible experience for Kyrill, not just linguistically, but also allowing him to witness French culture firsthand – including the *Gilets Jaunes* mass protests and other demonstrations.

Fleur then came to Alia in Term 2 of this year, staying firstly with Kyrill's family and then with Amie's family.

Fleur brought so much to Alia, offering our students the chance to practise their French with a native speaker of their own age, as well as bringing us cultural intel about France – including horrifying Alia students with tales of how rigorous and demanding a French school schedule can be!

In 2020 it will be Amie's turn to head to France, to stay with Fleur. And Della, our other VCE French student in 2020-21 will be joining her, to stay with one of Fleur's friends.

On 30th November this year, the brave and adventurous Benny, embarked on an epic journey – from Melbourne to Shanghai, Shanghai to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, a transfer to Orly airport, then on to Martinique. Martinique is a *département* of France in the Caribbean.

Benny is spending two weeks there with Ninon, the grand-daughter of Valérie who helps find all the won-



Fleur (Year 10) enjoying a classic Australian parma.

derful French students who come to Alia each year. Ninon goes to a boarding school in Martinique, which Benny is also attending for a fortnight (as well as being taken on a private flying lesson!). On 22nd December Benny and Ninon will fly together to France, so that Benny can experience a Northern hemisphere Christmas in Aix en Provence. I'm very proud of Benny to be open to this grand adventure and look forward to hearing of all his adventures on his return in early January.

Ninon will be coming to Alia for a few weeks in June 2020. We look forward very much to welcoming her, and learning more about life in France and Martinique.



Benny (Year 11) with new friends in Martinique.

ALIA COLLEGE ALUMNI GATHERING (CLASS OF 2009 REUNION)

Article by Hagan (English Teacher)



Alumni relive a maths class with Bob.

At our annual alumni gatherings, the school welcomes back anyone and everyone who has ever been a student at Alia. We present a photoboard of memories for the "reunion" class (in this case, the class of 2009). The get together is a great opportunity to see old friends and find out what people have been up to since leaving the school.

WHAT IS C.O.A.T.? (CULTIVATION OF ALTRUISTIC TENDENCIES)

Article by Oscar (Year 8)

(Resident Aliau and part-time Aliau)

I love Alia, especially the community feel between the staff and the students. This community feeling stays as strong as it is because of a thing we call Cultivation of Altruistic Tendencies (C.O.A.T.). C.O.A.T is a thing we do every day for 15 minutes before afternoon homeroom. As the name implies, the students of Alia spend these fifteen minutes giving back to the school by cleaning the whole school, whether that be doing the dishes, vacuuming, wiping down tables and so on.

Recently, we have found that there has been a dive in the amount of people participating in C.O.A.T. One of the teachers, Hagan Mathews, the person in charge of the Re-Engagement Program, came up with the idea of the

C.O.A.T wheel. This is a wheel with six different C.O.A.T duties. People make teams and each week we turn the wheel by one and whatever area and duty each team gets, they have to do. For those people who wanted to do one area all they have to do is write their name on a piece of paper next to the wheel and write what area they would like to do. And hey presto! Done.

Now, I would like to touch a bit more on the people not doing C.O.A.T and how we combat that problem. I just ask them to do C.O.A.T and if they don't I kick them out of the area because if you're not doing C.O.A.T. then it is not fair for you to hinder the people who are doing C.O.A.T. There is the rare occurrence where the person is rude or just never does anything, or ignores everyone completely. Then people will bring them up in whole school meeting, which is pretty much a normal home room meeting with the whole school. That's when they can be properly confronted because it is just annoying when people don't ever help and are just rude.

Finally there is a thing called superC.O.A.T. where at the end of every term everyone in the whole school spends a whole hour (sometimes longer) cleaning. Then we have a big lunch together and sometimes play a big soccer game (if people want to).

Overall, that is what C.O.A.T is. Keep in mind, doing C.O.A.T comes with a lot less problems than not doing it does.

KOORYONG STUDENT PRIZE



Della (Year 11) on stage with The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP.

Congratulations to Della Gondwana (Year 11), winner of the 2019 Kooyong Student Prize. The prize is awarded to students in the Kooyong electorate to recognise their academic excellence, leadership, and contributions to their schools.

SKILLS WEEK & CITY EXPERIENCE

Article by Amalina (Science Teacher)



Students learning some useful skills at Archery Attack.

Skills Week offers opportunities for Year 10s to learn about more real-world skills such as learning the basics of driving, martial arts defence techniques and calculating taxes. Meanwhile, the Year 9s participate in City Experience where they partake in activities such as Archery Attack, French and Japanese Tour and Escape Rooms. Through these, students naturally gain knowledge and develop skills such as critical thinking and team work that translates into various aspects of life.

ARTS NIGHT

Article by Hagan (English Teacher)



Cayden (Year 8) being overpowered by an evil force!

At Arts Night, friends and family are invited to Alia to view the work students have been doing in the arts over the semester. Everyone brings a plate of food to share.



Year 11 Music student Henry performing a bass solo.

Students from all year levels present music and drama performances and an art exhibition.

This year the junior and senior music classes performed numbers they had been working on in class. These were complimented by performances by soloists or duos, including a performance of the Pirates of the Caribbean theme on piano by Thomas (Year 8) accompanied by Oscar (Year 8) swinging a cutlass and saying "Yargh!"

The art exhibition showcased the broad variety of works students complete in art, and revealed the talents of many students. A zine by Zosia (Year 12) containing poetry and photography really captured the attention.

The drama performance this year was a high-energy presentation from the Juniors. Using a game of Dungeons and Dragons they had played during the semester as inspiration, the play followed an motley group of adventurers as they attempted to defeat some evil being represented by an enormous cardboard hand.

Arts Night was a lot of fun, congratulations to everyone who contributed work to the event!

SHORT FICTION INSPIRED BY ENCOUNTERS AT EUROA CAMP

Story by an anonymous camp attendee

The juniors were the first to go. I'd like to say it was because they were the slowest, but they were actually faster than pretty much everyone else. Luckily for everyone else, they're also the most easily distracted. All it took was to dangle a sausage from a particularly tall tree and BAM! They were at it like a pack of dogs, lunging and staring longingly at it. Poor bastards. This gave everyone else just enough time to add a bit of distance between us and "Them".

Who are "They," you ask? Well that's not gonna be easy to explain.

The first thing we saw when we got to the campground was a very stoic man meditating on a tree stump. Tomer bashfully asked if he was using the campsite.

"Watch out for the tattooed ones!" The man said without so much as opening his eyes.

"Sorry?" Replied Tomer.

"And wear plenty of sunscreen."

Before anyone had an opportunity to inquire further the man, without opening his eyes, stood up and patiently walked into the river.* Nobody thought too much of it.

So we all just went about our day like normal. That is, until we began to see them. Just glimpses out of the corner of our eye at first. Most simply assumed it was a bush rustling or a small animal running through.

That night's meeting, after everyone had had a go roasting the juniors, somebody brought up that they had seen strange movement in the brush. Once everybody's fears had been confirmed, the paranoia began to set in. There wasn't much sleep that night. That was definitely the only reason.

Eventually, light began to shine through the tents. The dew could be seen across the ground. The birds were chirping their f***ing heads off. It was morning.

People made their way to the kitchen to get themselves breakfast, mainly consisting of loaves of bread. Except for Scott, who had three bags of grapes.

There was still a tension among the campers but people were eager to move on and forget about the strange

sightings. But just as people were getting ready to start the day's activities, a shadowy figure walked into the room. Everyone stopped and stared.

"Hello," he said. "I'm Darryl."** He was wearing a bright red tracksuit and was covered from head to toe in sweat. He immediately got Scott's attention. You could tell because he looked up from his previous activity of swallowing whole grapes, which he seemed very intensely focused on.

The odd man talked at this room full of people for a solid hour. It was mostly nonsensical, something about Bob Dylan I think, and then proceeded to walk out of the room, leaving a trail of sweat behind him. This only intensified people's effort to move on with the day.

A group decided to go hiking to get away from the campsite for a bit. It was a lovely hike. Such a clear view of the McDonalds. But what they found when they got back, they were not expecting.

They waltzed back into the campsite, blissfully unaware of their surroundings.

"Don't move!" A voice came from inside a tent. "You're being watched."

They froze. Surrounding the campsite were these tattooed figures staring at them, completely still.

"Just as the prophecy foretold," whispered Vincent.

"Where is everyone?" Asked Josh.

"We're in here," came a reply.

"Oh, real helpful!"

A tent flap opened up revealing Oscar hurriedly signalling the hikers to get in. They did as they were told.

It was quite spacious for a three person tent. There they found the rest of the campers. There were whiteboards with strange equations scrawled on them*** and maps with pins all over them.

"These tattooed people have been here for hours and they're slowly closing in. We're trying to plan an escape." Oscar seemed serious.

"What have you got so far?"

They all conversed for what felt like hours but may have been only a matter of minutes until they decided on using the Juniors as bait, which the Juniors seemed surprisingly fine with.

And there we were, running for our lives as the tattooed people slowly encircled the Juniors. We all made a dash for the McDonalds, well, everyone except Patrick who

tore his shirt off and began sprinting towards Shepparton like a like a low budget Forrest Gump. We were almost at Maccas when we were cut off and cornered by a massive mob of the tattooed people. We were trapped.

Out of the middle of this mob stepped Darryl, covered in more sweat than ever.

“You!” Growled Scott, reaching into his bag of grapes.

“Muahahahaha!” Darryl the greasy boy menacingly cackled. It seemed like this was it. But suddenly there was a noise far off in the distance, slowly getting louder.

It was the Juniors. They had managed to annoy the tattooed people enough to get them to leave. The tattoo mob started backing away, leaving Darryl behind.

“NOOOOOOOO!” Screamed Darryl before getting onto his comically small bike and riding into the sunset. We were safe.

And that’s the story of how everybody was happy with and had no complaints about the behaviour of the juniors.

*we decided to avoid swimming in the river after that.

**I can’t actually remember his name so I’m just calling him Darryl, but in actuality it was much more ominous.

***I think Bob thought he was in a maths lesson.

GOODBYE FROM 'THE JANET'



As I wander off into the distance that looks like retirement, (but not really because I will be tutoring and mentoring for a couple of years yet)... I wanted to say a cheerful GOODBYE and impart some wisdom to Alia students.

Here goes:

APPRECIATIONS:

You are lovely and super interesting humans, you Alians, and I appreciate the respect and gratitude you have shown me over the years. I love that you are funny and sensitive and intelligent, that you are prepared to listen and look after each other and your school. You are

so lucky to be at Alia and I have been just as fortunate to have been trusted with your education.

CONCERNS:

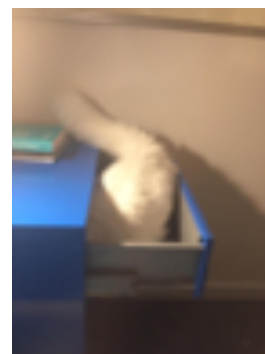
This is your chance to learn in an environment where you are not judged. That might require some responsibility on your part, like making yourself go to class and self imposing a ban on technology so your mind is open to learning. Your teachers really want to teach you so let them! Be engaged and be part of everything. Take advantage of the school that took you in and looked after you, by being there physically, emotionally and intellectually. I say go for it! Learn stuff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

I feel sad about leaving you great people and even if I haven’t taught you, I hope I have chatted and asked you questions. Juniors, please be in the ‘learning bubble’ and work hard. Middle school, focus on how satisfying it feels to finish a task and to have done your best. Senior/VCE students, this is where you can make use of what you have learned so far. Focus on what it means to learn, make use of your teachers’ expertise and advice and enjoy Alia. And don’t forget to guide the younger students- you are invaluable role models.

And finally... be curious...

(but don’t get trapped in a drawer, this is what happened to Brian and he didn’t like it)



...hug and hang on to your school, it is precious and unique!

Warmest of Good byes to you all and enjoy everything Alia has to offer,

The Janet (and Brian)

Aged 149 (this may not be accurate)

ALIA STAFF HAPPENINGS AND MOVEMENTS

In 2019 we saw the marriage of Giselle and Charlie (both Alia alumni) in January, the marriages of Simone and Shaun, and Kim and Tyrone, in the middle of the year, and we must congratulate Tomer and Francesca (both Alia alumni and staff) who will be getting married in early February, 2020.

In other news, Yuri and Bob became first time grandparents with the birth of Aila (pronounced Isla) to Andrew and Eri (both Alia alumni).

In staff comings and goings, we look forward to Ruth joining the Alia community from Term 1 next year to teach Science. At the end of 2019 we farewelled Janet, Kim, Fong-Fu, Alexis and Julie-Ann. A huge thanks to each of them for their contribution to Alia College and we wish them well with the next stage of their careers.



The sun sets on another year. From all of us at Alia (and some of us twice), enjoy your holidays!

Term I, 2020 Calendar Dates

<i>Australia Day Holiday (Observed)</i>	<i>Monday, 27 January</i>
STUDENTS COMMENCE	9.00AM, WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY
Whole School Orientation Camp	Tuesday, 4 February - Friday, 7 February
Trivia Night	6.30pm, Friday, 21 February
<i>Labour Day Public Holiday</i>	<i>Monday, 9 March</i>
Alia Expo(sed)	6.00pm, Thursday, 26 March
TERM I FINISHES	2PM, FRIDAY, 27 MARCH

Et Al is the newsletter of Alia College

Campus: 405 Tooronga Rd, Hawthorn East, 3123 Postal: Box 10, 119 Auburn Rd, Hawthorn East, 3123
Ph 03 9822 9622 ~ Fax 03 9822 6498 ~ info@alia.vic.edu.au ~ www.alia.vic.edu.au