

## TERM I CAMP TO ANGLESEA

Article by Hagan (Teacher)

The start of the school year seems so far away, doesn't it? Because it is. Somewhere between there and here something happened to derail the long time tradition of releasing a school newsletter at the end of each term. I'm not sure what.

But where to begin but the beginning? The beginning of this school year took place at the Anglesea Family Caravan Park, where the oversized family of Alia College pitched our tents near the mouth of the Anglesea river.

The weather was glorious. The cooking groups were successful. There was a pool. I remember one student remarking that cleaning up is actually fun when you're doing it with your friends. I remember standing up on a surfboard for the first time, quite early in the surfing lesson, and failing to do it again. I remember charging through a forest at midnight, with about twenty other people, guided only by the spotlight I was supposed to be avoiding.

Look, it was a while ago, now, and I can't remember much more with any accuracy. There was a lot going on, and often the best bits are when there isn't much going on. I may just be wishing someone had said that thing about cleaning being fun... I think my imagination is often better than my memory. I'll just let the photographs tell the rest of the story.



Outdoor barbecues! Remember those? Friday (Alia IT), Jono (Yr 12), Beau (Yr 10) and Patrick (Class of 2019)



The Alia campers of Term I, 2020.



Twenty wild teenagers (and some non-teenagers) running through the bush at midnight? Must be an Alia camp.



Cooking together with friends! Remember that? Charlie (Yr 11), Ash (Yr 12), Tim (Yr 11) and Vincent (Yr 12)



Nobody would have guessed we were from out of town.



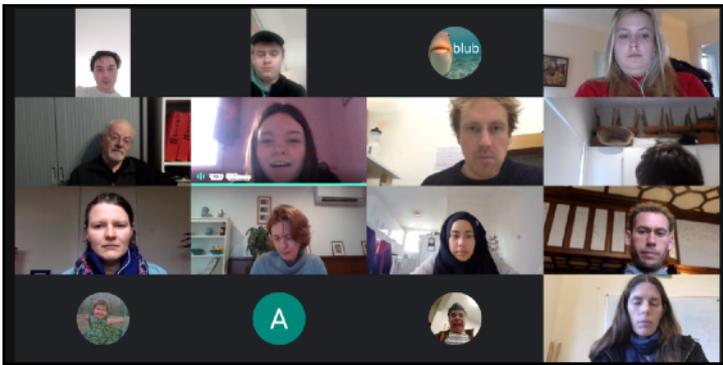
A hike in the Otways, with a morality theme! We all opted for "lower".

# WHOLE SCHOOL MEETING ON GOOGLE MEET

Article by Antonia (Office Admin)

The 2020 school year so far has been a whirlwind of events and the Alia College school community has been working through it all together. Our focus has been on ensuring classes are running and students and staff are supported in whatever way possible to get through these unusual pandemic times.

In Term III, the Alia College community worked through lockdown 2.0.



It's often unclear whether the subjects of Google Meet screenshots have been notified that someone is taking a photo.

At Alia, each day begins and ends with a homeroom meeting led by students. A couple of times a week, in place of homeroom, we have a whole school meeting. We have continued this online.

At student meetings someone calls for Appreciations, Concerns and Announcements. Typically, if you would like to speak, you raise your hand. If you have something on topic, you raise your hand and show two fingers. This meeting system has been refined over the years and has been adjusted to online, with an unmuted mic simulating a raised hand.

When Joe (Yr 10) runs a meeting (as he did in the meeting that inspired this article) he chooses to elaborate on the basic call for Appreciations, Concerns and Announcements. Joe (in a rapid-fire style, without drawing breath) calls for "...any Appreciations, Concerns, Lies, Statements, Confessions, Questions, Announcements, Jokes, Hypotheticals, Moral Dilemmas, Items of Interest, Things You've Been Up To, Quotes by

Anybody or Replies to What Has Already Been Said by Anybody".

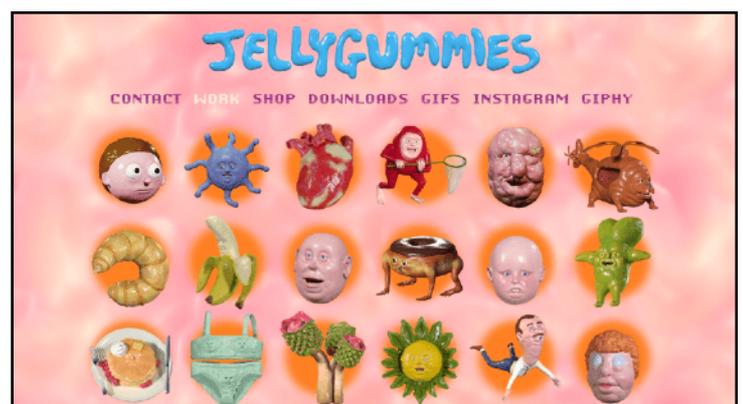
One morning when I attended an online whole school meeting, I came into the meeting to hear people saying it was Jono's birthday. Naturally, we all then sang Happy Birthday to Jono. Bob (Principal) was singing too, but had his mic off. There were calls for him to then sing a solo - with his mic on this time. He was saved when someone called out that it was also Aiden's birthday. We again sang Happy Birthday, this time Bob's mic was on.

Students then turned the conversation to coronavirus in the USA and Trump's approach and attitude toward the pandemic. This was a colourful and emotional conversation that didn't go for too long.

Kelly then showed us all a book she received in the mail from Hagan (teacher). She expressed her disappointment that it was just a book in the mail. There were some suggestions as to what she might have been happy to receive.

We were momentarily interrupted by the audio of a scuffle between two students (siblings at home together). We could see the odd limb come into screen.

Then Joe, who was running the meeting, could be heard discussing breakfast with a mystery voice. Chloe (teacher) inquired as to who Joe was speaking to. Turned out to be his older brother Oscar, a former Alia student. We then asked him to get on the mic and tell us how he was going, he obliged.



The Jellygummies website as presented by Sylvie (Yr 7)

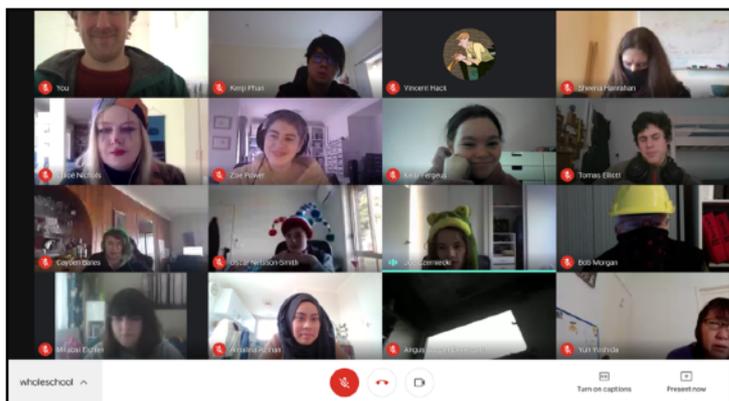
Sylvie then shared a website she had come across which she just had to share, [www.jellygummies.com](http://www.jellygummies.com). She presented her screen to all in the Google Meet. Another student asked, "How do you find this stuff?"

Sylvie replied, "Well, it all started with researching frogs in Science with Amalina (teacher)". Sylvie continued to

share her screen and took us all through the process of getting from frog research to Jellygummies. It was interesting to see her internet rabbit warren.

Joe pointed out it was class time, called for any last “Appreciations, Concerns, Lies, Statements, Confessions, Questions, Announcements, Jokes, Hypotheticals, Moral Dilemmas...”

Meeting was closed and each of the 30 people online slowly left the meeting.



Whole School Meeting on the last day of Term III. Note the clowns/ random hat theme.

During these lockdowns Alia College has moved classes online and has continued with our regular timetable, with some minor adjustments. Despite being online, I am pleased that we are still connected, and the spirit of the Alia school community is still strong.

## STUDENT TEACHERS AT ALIA COLLEGE

Article by Hagan (Teacher)

For the last few weeks of Term II Alia hosted a couple of student teachers from the Master of Teaching course at the University of Melbourne. James Shortt, otherwise known as Joe, taught Humanities and Health with Chloe, and Elyse Nash-Ferry taught Maths with Bob.

Elyse and Joe spent their first two weeks participating in classes online, because the COVID-19 lockdown hadn't lifted yet. I think it made for a pretty steep learning curve, but we were all getting schooled a but school at that point. They were both excited to see how the school operated with people in it after two weeks of getting to know students through a screen. Sadly, they

were only with us for three weeks, but I think we made an impression. Joe mentioned in parting that he's worried his expectations for other schools will be set too high after spending time at Alia!



I swear they're here somewhere (on Bob's right)... note Vincent caring for the Google Meet portion of the meeting.

Thanks Joe and Elyse for bringing your fresh perspectives to Alia College, and all the best for the future!

## IDAHOBIT ON CAMPUS

Article by Hagan (Teacher)

At the end of Term II, we reconvened at Alia for two weeks on campus. At this time, classes and homerooms were hybrids of online and in person learning. But the short time was not wasted.



Kelly (Yr 8), Abby (Yr 9) and Sylvie (Yr 7) with their “History of LGBTQI+ Rights in Australia Timeline”.

The Junior HASS class completed a timeline for the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), which falls on the 17th of May, but hey, unprecedented times!

# THE ART GOES ON



24.08.2020



25.08.2020



Mimi 17.09.2020

Clockwise from top left:  
Ashleigh (Yr 12), Studio Art Mixed Media;  
Eli (Yr 10), Acrylic on Paper;  
Sheina (Yr 12) Studio Art Mixed Media;  
Mimi (Yr 10) Texta on Paper.



# BEES!

In Term 1, the theme in Junior Science was anything and everything about bees.

These tiny insects play a massive role in the ecosystem and almost every food we eat is attributed to the bees. Before learning about them, all we knew was they are tiny yellow and black-striped fuzz balls that buzz around flowers and collect nectar and pollen. We soon realised there were so many things to learn about bees, from how many eyes they have to their hive's infrastructure. Did you know that honeybees are not native to Australia?



Ben bravely brings the bees. Prime real estate in Hawthorn East!

The more we learnt about them, the more we thought "What if we had our own beehive?". Not many people know but Alia used to have a beehive and we thought, since we're learning about it, who better to be the beekeepers? We got into contact with Ben from Ben's Bees and he came in to talk about bees and showed various bee products: beeswax, honeycomb, propolis and more. Each student present for his talk was also given a jar of fresh honey!



If you squint you can see them.

Next, came the talk of installing our beehive. We already had the hive and a hive suit so all we needed was the bees. Ben inspected the location of our hive and gave us the greenlight. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, we finally got our bee-

hive! We also enlisted the help of fellow Alians to pick the name of the hive and we collectively agreed that we should call it 'The White House'.

It has been a few weeks and so far, they have settled in nicely and hopefully we'll be able to open the hive up and see them in action soon.

## DID SOMEBODY MENTION ISOLATION?

Writing and artworks from Alia students

For the last two terms, the topic of isolation has come up. It seems like a lot of us really enjoy being at school, and we've missed being together. Over the term, our isolation has informed some of the work we've done in classes. The following writing and art works have been produced by students over the last term.

### A DAY IN THE LOCKDOWN LIFE

For Junior English, students were tasked with keeping a detailed diary for seven days of their lockdown. Some excerpts of their writing follow.

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When the disease first surfaced and places like China and Italy were in lockdown was as real as it got for me, I was having a conversation with everyone in homeroom about it and everyone's theories. We all laughed at Bob when he was telling us from the start of the year to work hard while we were still at school because eventually we would all be online so we all had to get lots of maths done whilst we were still at school.

I'm not sure about others but I just thought everyone would just have to do a 2 week quarantine period and then things would go back to normal, oh how wrong I was. Talking about what platforms everyone felt comfortable using if we were to hold classes online in wholeschool meeting felt like a bit of a bore and a waste of time. So little is known about this virus that rules and regulations have been being adjusted so frequently as we learn more about it.

We started online learning and lots of people were keen. I along with many others were super motivated and found myself attending more classes than when we were on campus. However, the novelty started to fade along with motivation. I found myself attending fewer and fewer

classes by the day and my motivation was at an all time low. I was just doing nothing but I was extremely bored so I forced myself to go to classes as that was the only thing there was really to do besides seeing Pearl, my horse.

About a month into the lockdown we were given a date to return back to school, the 9th of June. It was nice being back at school even if it wasn't for long, but at least I saw BellaDonna, because she's the best dog. There was a glimmer of hope returning to school with the thought that by the start of term 3 it would be like it was pre-pandemic. I was also preparing Pearl for comps to go back and get her fitness up so we could finally have our first eventing start.

Then the numbers started increasing heaps by the day and the idea of going back to school was fading fast. On top of that, Pearl had an abscess so the holidays were extremely boring and felt like they were dragging on forever. At home we were renewing passports in the hope to be able to go to Sri Lanka early 2021 to celebrate my brother's wedding, but the idea of that is deteriorating fast.

— Kelly (Yr 8)

The following diary excerpts are from the Junior English class:

Wednesday, 19th of August, 2020

I woke up rather early yesterday, wiping the dried tears from my eyes, I sat down to eat breakfast. The most important meal of the day, which I barely eat. I sped through my classes until I finally got to the end of the day, the afternoon if you will. Which I spent eating s'mores (the best campfire food ever created) and watching netflix. Soon after dinner I hit the hay, smacked the sack, dropped like a log, and slept like an infantile human.

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Yesterday I woke up, wrote and drew in my book, went into homeroom where I was half asleep and not sure what I said or even if I even said anything...I was awake for period 1 english, we spoke, read and did activities on Anne Frank. In Hass period 2 we started an assignment on political parties I chose to do mine on the democrats. Next was PE I went for a walk in the park and got my mind off of a few things, listened to music, drew and wrote in my book by the lake. For X-files I finished the sketch of my piece and began the actual painting (it's



Artwork by Vincent, (Yr 9), fineliner on paper

drying now) that was relaxing apart from the fact that I couldn't make the bodies look proportionate which was frustrating. When class was over I sat in my room for a bit just reading and sitting with my thoughts, I later decided I should spend time with my family and get over my teen angst bs, even though it feels like I'm glued to them at the moment...

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I then logged on for homeroom and got interrupted 5 minutes in as my niece was being dropped off for the day (yes it's allowed in stage 4 it's child minding and there was no parent able to care for her). As she entered the house she went straight to the bookshelf and found the jungle book and wanted me to read it to her so we set ourselves up on the couch and read 2 pages before she decided to move on and say hi to my dog, Arlo. So I got out whilst I could and went back to class.

Saturday, 22nd of August, 2020

I woke up in the early hours of the morning to my cat clawing my face off; after gently pushing him away, I carefully hopped down the steps of my ladder to run to the kitchen so I could have breakfast. I had crepes. Later on, I had my lunch and hung out with Nate, my brother.



Constance, (Yr 12), Studio Art final project

I had dinner at 7 pm, and dozed off, hit the hay, dropped like dog and slept like a log, at 9 pm

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I set out on a short stroll around the neighbourhood, whilst I was out I picked up various flowers with the plan of making a little bouquet when I got home. I dropped the majority of them and thought that a single yellow flower (I think it was a weed) and a beat up rose would just be sad so that plan flopped. I sat out the front of my house and read for a while but then lost track of that and ended up on my phone talking to my friends and watching nostalgic movies that make me miss my childhood and regret ever growing up.

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I went home, had dinner vegetable soup again just with a few more tonnes of cheese than the last. Then we watched awful awful reality TV and lost all hope in humanity.

#### SENIOR ENGLISH STREAM-OF-CONSCIOUSNESS

The Senior English class responded to the prompt “Isolation is when...” as a journaling task. Zoe (Yr 9) has been kind enough to share her response:

Isolation is when you are separated by a force from other people, or yourself. That force may be yourself, a law, a physical barrier, or someone telling you not to do it. You may be isolated from your friends. You may be isolated from your family. You may even be isolated from yourself. It's when you are distanced and separated from yourself. It's when you can't escape or leave. It's when you have to stay put, no matter how much you want to leave. It's when you miss everyone but you can't do anything about it. It's when you are trapped in your own thoughts and memories...

It's when you are in trouble if you go outside. It's when you can only be within an arm's distance from another

person. It's when you have to stay away and stay home. It's when the only escape you have is going for a walk. It's when the only reason you're allowed to see your friends is in an emergency. It's when you can't have a big funeral. It's when you can't have a big wedding. It's when you have to sit in your room and celebrate your own birthday alone...

It's when you miss your friends and would do anything for just one minute with them. It's when you can't run away from your thoughts because they come with you. It's when you get in trouble if you're too close to people. It's when you can't feel the touch of your best friend hugging you. It's when you can't feel the touch of your brother. It's when you can't see your family. It's when you're alone.



Lockdown hasn't stopped the flowers in the Alia garden.

#### POETRY

as time comes to an end  
life is left behind  
death will walk his final walk  
while the light is consumed by night  
and the blood of man has all run dry  
our hopes and dreams have all but died  
the stars will shine  
and the world will turn

— Declan (Yr 11)

# Term IV, 2020 Calendar Dates

STUDENTS COMMENCE	9.00AM, TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER
Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews	4.30-9.00pm, Tuesday, 13 October
Information Night for Prospective Families	7.15pm, Thursday, 22 October
Year 12 Last Day of Classes	Thursday, 29 October
<i>Foundation Day Holiday — No School</i>	<i>Monday, 2 November</i>
<i>Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday</i>	<i>Tuesday, 3 November</i>
Arts Night	6.00pm, Thursday, 19 November
VCE 2021 Orientation Week	Monday, 30 November - Friday, 4 December
Year 9/10/11 Skills & Development Week	Monday, 30 November - Friday, 4 December
Year 9 City Experience	Monday, 30 November - Friday, 4 December
Year 11 Exam Week	Monday, 30 November - Friday, 4 December
VCE Afternoon Tea	1.30pm, Tuesday, 1 December
2021 Year 7 Orientation Day	Thursday, 3 December
Year 12 Graduation Ceremony	5.00pm, Friday, 4 December
End-of-Year Camp	Monday, 7 - Thursday 10 December
TERMI IV FINISHES	3.00PM, THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER

## Still here, if at a distance!



*Et Al* is the newsletter of Alia College

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