

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Newsletter No 2 - 2021

Term 1 Ends

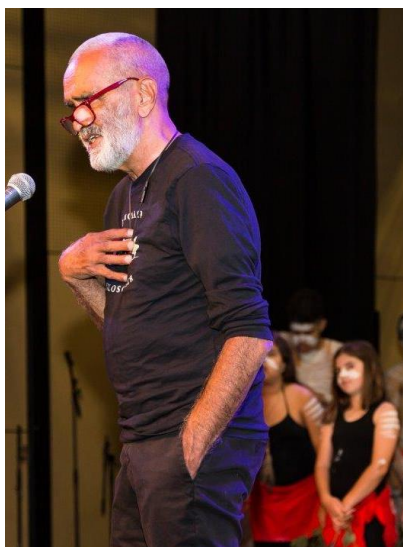
Term 1 has gone by very quickly. There have been many excursions, incursions and lots of activities around the college. On Tuesday in this last week of term we had our Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences providing all students and parents with a report on how students are progressing and what they can do to improve and be successful. If you were unable to attend and have any concerns, please contact your students's Form Teacher or Coordinator to make an appointment

A Fight For Survival -The Gathering

On Saturday 20th March, we had a gathering at NCAT of all the community involved in the battle to fight the Kennett government's decision to close the school in 1992 and the battle to have it reopened. The gathering and exhibition of photos from that struggle as well art pieces from former Koori students and Koori Educator Lyn Thorpe was organised by the Northland Collective of former Koori Educators, teachers, Koori community leaders, former students, Moondani Balluk (Vic Uni) and funded by the City of Darebin as part of the FUSE Festival.

Because of COVID restrictions on the number of people we could have in the auditorium, the event was not publicised to the broader NCAT community but limited to former students, former and current teachers and members of the community involved in the struggle.

The gathering began with a smoking ceremony led by Robbie Thorpe, who was a parent at the time, later was School Council President and Koori Cultural Worker. The Koori Youth Will Shake Spears Dance troupe which was established at Northland SC, now grown up and with their children in the troupe, then led the crowd into the auditorium where they performed several dances for everyone.



Gary Foley, (left), well known Koori activist and parent of Bruce Foley who along with Muthama Sinnappan took the Kennett government to court claiming discrimination was the first keynote speaker. He noted the incredible achievement and resilience of the community in winning the battle over a vicious government who went on to close more than 300 schools. He noted that Northland SC was a microcosm of what Australia could be, a place where Kooris felt safe and could walk proud, sharing culture and stories through the arts.



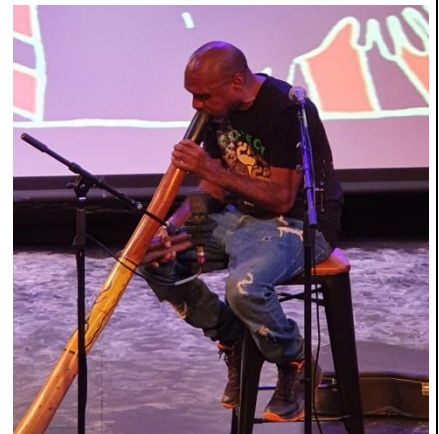
The afternoon also featured speeches by Cr Lina Melina, (left), the Darebin Mayor, Muthama Sinnappan, former student who took Kennett to court, Lyn Thorpe, former Koori Educator, and Jill Morgan, former Drama teacher, (pictured second from left) all members of the Northland Collective organising this event. Lyn spoke about the importance of creativity and the arts as an avenue for success and excellence in other subject areas.



The crowd was also treated to wonderful music performances by Amos Roach, Kutcha Edwards and Dave Arden (pictured right).



I was delighted to acknowledge a little of the history of the battle which lasted two and a quarter years and saw us win in the Equal Opportunity Board in December 1994, only to have the decision for the school to be reopened overturned by Justice Beach. We then won our appeal in the Supreme Court in August 1994 but were sent back to the EO Board. The EO board again ruled that the government must reopen the



school and after a failed appeal to the Supreme Court the school reopened on 1st March 1995.

During this entire time, Dedrie Baksh ran the Rebel School for students with the help of volunteer teachers first at the



school, and later, when removed by the police, at a Uniting Church Hall in Thornbury and later still at sports pavilion at McDonnell Park in Northcote.

The legal battle was won thanks to the brilliant legal team of Herman Borenstein (our barrister) and Melinda Richards (our solicitor). We were delighted to see Melinda, now a Supreme Court judge, at the event. It was supported by many organisations, particularly the CFMEU who came to our aid offering to fix the school to get it reopened.

What most impressed the EO Board is how the Northland SC community, Koori and non-Koori, teachers and students, stuck together throughout the battle.



Photos courtesy of Michael Findlay, Tracy Paterson & Lyn Thorpe



When the government tried to divide and conquer by offering the Koori community their own Koori school it was rejected. As Gary Foley told them, "our children don't live in a Koori only world," and said that they wanted Northland back as it was a mainstream school where their children could be proud and successful and their culture embraced by the whole community.

The gathering was attended by over 300 people and featured former students and their children, former and current teachers, community members and Northland battle supporters such as Martin Kingham and Albert Littler (CFMEU) Moira Rainer, then Equal Opportunity Commissioner sacked by Kennett and Ged Kearney MP for Cooper, representing Federal Labor which provided the school \$500,000 on reopening.

A big thank you to the Northland Collective on their magnificent work in organising this event and the wonderful exhibition. The exhibition will be featured at Bunjilaka at the Melbourne Museum later this year, There is also a cabaret performance of the story of the struggle being held as part of the Yirranboi festival in May: <https://yirramboi.com.au/events/a-fight-for-survival/>

Welcome to New Parents on School Council

I am delighted to announce that Jeremy Blaney, Tina Kallianis and Nadia De Cesaris have been elected unopposed as parent representatives to the NCAT College Council. They join current serving parent reps Leesa Mereos and Dave Hope. Community members of Council include David Redfearn OAM – Council President, Patrick Evans – Maton Innovations Manager, Trish Jelbart - TAFE teacher and Jes White as well as 5 staff reps. We are awaiting the Student Leadership team to nominate two student leaders to serve on Council. The Annual General Meeting for School Council will be held on Monday 19th April at 7.00pm. All welcome.

New Student Leaders

This term elections were held to appoint our 2021 Student Leaders. Student voice and agency is highly valued at NCAT. I want to congratulate our new leaders and I look forward to working with them.

I wish everyone a safe and refreshing break.

Raffaela Galati-Brown
PRINCIPAL

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Thursday 1 st April	Term 1 ends
Monday 19 th April	Term 2 begins School Council Annual General Meeting 7.00pm – all welcome
Tuesday 4 th May	Staff Professional Development Day - students do not attend Years 10-12 College Formal, 7.00-11.00pm
Tuesday 18 th May	College Information Evening (see NCAT website for confirmation & details)
Friday 4 th June	Report Writing Day - students do not attend
Monday 14 th June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday - students do not attend
Tues 15 th – Fri 25 th June	Year 10, General VCAL & Pre-App Work Placements
Friday 25 th June	Term 2 ends

Secondary School Immunisation Catch Ups

Does your child attend a secondary school in Darebin?

If so, there may be immunisations that your child missed in 2020 due to the closure of schools during COVID.

The Government funds the following immunisations:

- Year 7 Students – 2 dose course of the HPV Gardasil and a DTP Booster
- Year 10 Students – 1 dose of Meningococcal ACWY

All secondary school vaccines are funded until your child turns 20 years of age. Parents can bring their child to any Darebin Council immunisation session as per the following link. No booking is required. Your child's information will be on the Darebin school database.

www.darebin.vic.gov.au/immunisation

If you have any questions about your child's immunisation please call:
Darebin Immunisation Service on 8470 8562.



Pat Cronin Foundation Visit Year 10s

On Thursday 25th March the Year 10 Arts students hosted a guest speaker from the Pat Cronin Foundation.

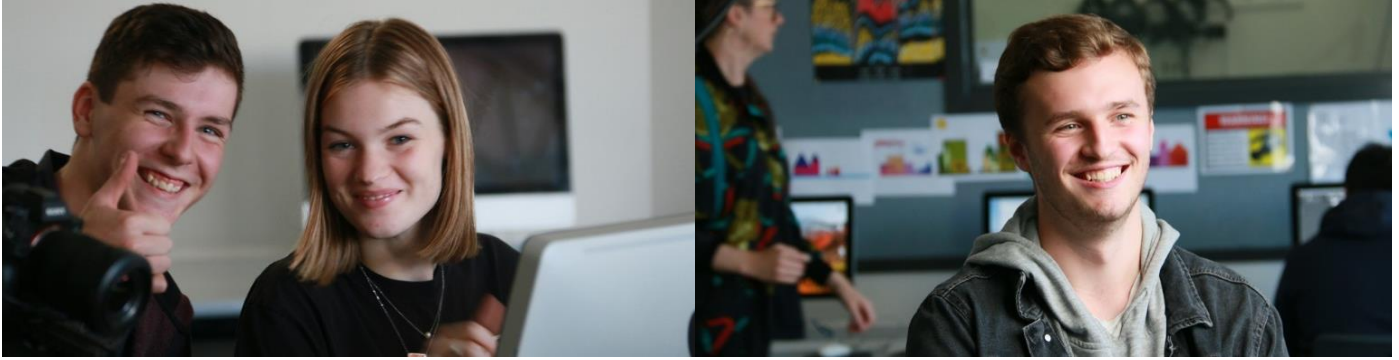
The program informed students about Pat and his story aiming to teach students to reflect on their attitudes and behaviours around anger and aggression.

At the conclusion of the session, students were visibly empowered to develop their own action plans to 'Be Wise' and to never use violence.

Natalie Gates
YEAR 10 ARTS COORDINATOR



NCAT Promotional Videos



Over the last few weeks, NCAT has undertaken a series of promotional videos with the **Big Media Company**. These videos profile our specialist areas of Performing Arts, Technologies, Visual Arts, Tertiary Programs and a college overview.

All students and staff who took part in this project have been brilliant. Our students spoke confidently and with conviction about how much they appreciate the type of education being delivered at NCAT. It became clear during the interview process that our students truly love being at NCAT

A big thanks to everyone involved including not only those who appeared in the video, but also for the cooperation and assistance in making the filming schedule work. An extra special thanks to Year 12 student Mason Peart for his expert input. These videos are due for release prior to our first Information Evening on Tuesday 18th May.



Mark Russell - NCAT MARKETING/PROMOTIONS

City Investigation Excursion

On Tuesday 2nd March the Senior VCAL Building & Construction class went on a construction investigation excursion to the City of Melbourne.

Some of our class went to Queen Victoria Market to examine the older style heritage buildings. Others rode down to Port Melbourne and Docklands to look at the more modern style apartment complexes. Some of us also walked around and looked at the current building sites around the city to see how they function,

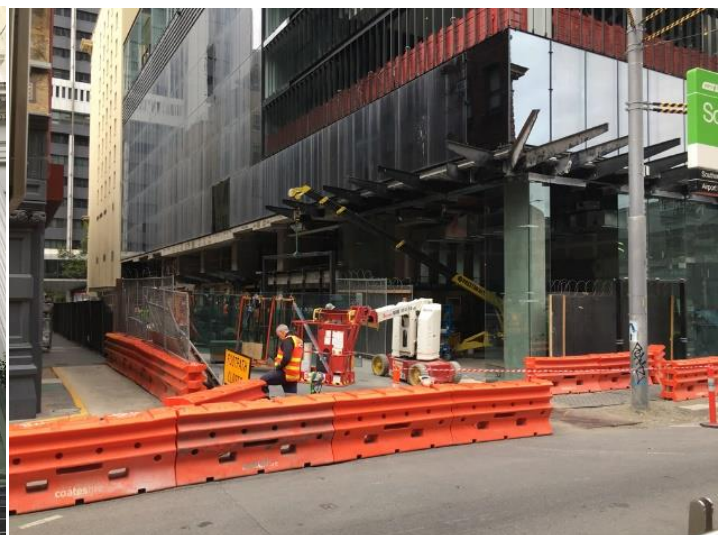
Pictured left are: First is *Murphy, Lucas and Petros*. second is *Max, Anthony, Ben and Jack*, and third is *Adam and Ryan*. Below from left to right is - *Sam, Jordan, Liam, Sash, Robbie and Jamie* on the steps at Flinders Street Station after a long day.

Pictured below is the Baptist Church in Collins Street and a construction site.

Overall it was a good day and we all learnt a lot about older styles, modern buildings and also current job sites.

Thanks to our teacher, Kate Dermody, for taking us out.

Ben Haste - Year 12/PA4





Certificate III - ReVamp 2021

Congratulations to everyone who made the Certificate III Music Industry concert 'ReVamp 2021' a truly inspiring event.

To all the Sound Production students behind the scenes and all the First Year Music students who performed with such enthusiasm and confidence, thank you for your passion and hard work. You have all launched the concert season at NCAT for 2021 with total success.

Matt Rodd - MUSIC PERFORMANCE/SOUND PRODUCTION



First 2021 Student-Led Whole School Assembly

On Thursday 18th March the College held its first whole school assembly for 2021. This brought together all staff and students from Years 10-12. The assembly was led by the College 2021 student leadership team. The introduction of student led assemblies is one way the college encourages and supports student engagement and involvement in the running of whole school initiatives.

It was great to be able to watch and celebrate together the talented NCAT student opening and closing musical performances. Thank you to Adam Marguglio, Bianca Hirschfeld and Monique Hirschfeld for their wonderful performances.

Lucinda Gray and Anthony Stevens did a wonderful job as MCs. Lucinda provided an overview on what student voice and agency looks like at NCAT. She spoke of the importance of student contribution, engagement and feedback.

NCAT values student voice and agency. Before the end of term 1, students will be completing a student feedback to teacher survey on teaching and learning in each of their classes. Next term, students will also be given the opportunity to engage in a post survey dialogue with their teachers. The purpose of the survey and the dialogue is to provide opportunities for students to discuss the feedback they have provided and express how they best learn and put forward suggestions for change.

I would like to also thank Ethan Chiodo-Hall who provided an overview of the Year 12 jumpers and the senior school formal. Raffaella Galati-Brown, the Principal provided a formal welcome to students and staff to the new academic year and spoke on the importance and role of student voice and agency, the adherence to the College's behaviour code and the acceptance of diversity. Shelley Scown, music teacher spoke about the musical theatre production and Alex Tsenalidis, VCAL Coordinator provided an update on student workplace learning.

As the College's Student Leadership, Voice and Advocacy Coordinator I am in a fortunate position to work with the dedicated and hardworking students who are elected onto the College's student Leadership team each year. NCAT is proud to have a unique leadership model, developed by students to enhance and encourage student voice a model that supports and encourages student voice and contribution to the future direction of the College.

There are a total of 16 leaders elected on the NCAT student leadership team and their attendance to weekly leadership meeting is compulsory. There are also student class representatives who provide support to the program leaders; their attendance to the weekly leadership meeting is voluntary.

During the assembly this year's student leaders were announced and presented with their leadership badges.

It is my pleasure to announce the NCAT 2021 School Leaders:

Year 10A Arts

Leader: Paige Watson

Vice Leader: Nina McCarthy-Gray

Year 10B Arts

Leader: Tayla Cooper

Vice Leader: Grace Davidson

Form Group Representatives:

Mia Hatzi (1st semester)

Clare McKenna (2nd semester)

Year 10 Technology

Leader: Nick Bowler

Vice Leader: Harrison Gould

VCE

Leaders: Amelia Geiss & Lucinda Gray

Vice Leaders: Josh Guest & Jaden Lal

Year 12 Form Group Rep: Anthony Stevens

VCAL Leaders

Performance (Music & Dance): Zea Trebilcock

Visual Art (Yr12) Leader: Ruby Giardinazzo

Visual Art (Yr11) Leader: Finn Colton

General Leader: Julian Mallardi Class Rep: Ethan Chiodo-Hall

Pre-apprenticeship: TBC

Student leadership meetings are held weekly on a Tuesday lunch time from 1.00pm-1.30pm in room B12. Interested students in Years 10-12 are encouraged to attend as this is an open forum meeting.

Student leadership is an important component to learning at NCAT and I look forward to the year ahead and in working with the student leaders in enhancing student voice and advocacy into the college. If students would like to be involved in the student leadership initiatives, come along and join us at one of our meetings at lunchtime or speak to your student program leader or come and see me.

Nadia Tomarchio

STUDENT LEADERSHIP/VOICE & AGENCY COORDINATOR

Hello Cass

Thank you to Emma Koster, founder of *Hello Cass* who visited General VCAL students at Northern College of the Arts & Technology, as part of the *Young Changemakers Program*.

Last year, the General VCAL students collaborated with the Inner North Community Foundation and funded Hello Cass to expand its critical support services for young adults with a new *chat bot* that provides young people information and connections to support services on sexual health, sexuality and consent.

Hello Cass is just one of the projects that the Young Changemakers of the inner north region have funded. This year the General VCAL students are currently learning all about philanthropy through the VCAL curriculum.

We're thrilled the students are engaged and making change in their communities on issues they care about. The Young Changemakers Program is possible due to the support and partnerships of Ecstra Foundation, Clifton Hill / North Fitzroy Community Bank Branch and Inner North Jobs for Youth.

Pictured:

1. L-R Emma Koster (Hello Cass), with graduates of the 2020 program: Georgia, Ethan and Mason
2. Emma Koster talking about safety and support with students

Alex Tsenalidis - VCAL COORDINATOR

Year 10 Science

Pictured below, Year 10 Science students play the game 'Bear Island' while learning the concept of selective pressure and evolution and Battleship using periods and groups of periodic table.



Angie You - MATHS/SCIENCE TEACHER

10T Excursions - Sidetracked

On Thursday 25th March, Levi and Georgia took 10T students on an activity day to Sidetracked Entertainment in Oakleigh. The crew participated in dodgem cars, laser tag, go karting, mini bowling and mini golf.



After a whirl on the dodgem cars, the students made it their mission to destroy Georgia at laser tag. Team Red, led by Georgia, took on Team Green, led by Levi in an intense battle. Team Red emerged victorious in overall points however, Younes from Team Green held the highest points for the session.

Wrapping up the day, the students competed for the fastest lap time on their go karts. We had four students with a lead foot, Harry, Cherisse, Sam and Rhody, coming in with lap times of less than 32 seconds. Cherisse won her group with an average lap time of 31.88 and Sam won his group with an average lap time of 31.94.



Georgia Carson - 10T FORM TEACHER & Levi Lawrence - 10T COODINATOR

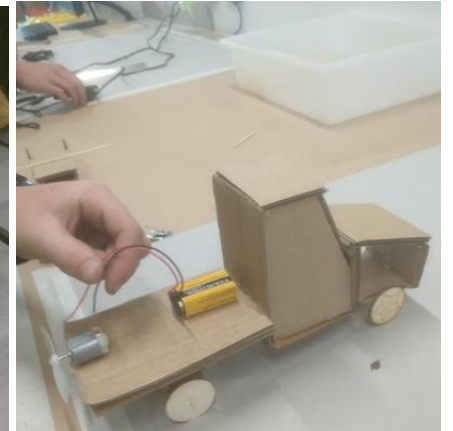
10T Excursions - Industry Taster Day



On Monday 29th March 10T students went to **Banyule Nillumbik Tech School** for an Industry Taster Day with teachers, Georgia and Michael. They had the opportunity to work with technology emerging in the engineering world for the coming years.



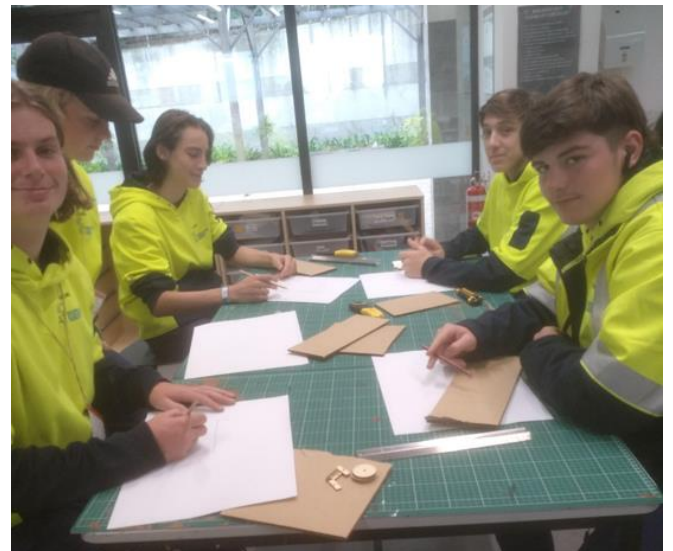
The students began the day checking out some fighter jet components, built locally here in Victoria. They were then able to build miniature cardboard cars to race. Tom Christou built a weapon that sped through the course in 3.28 seconds! Honourable mention to Archie who built his dream Hilux that needed a second motor to get going.



Rounding out the day, the students participated in a drone flying activity, which saw them trying to navigate the room using the drone technology, landing on tables, chairs, hands and their own heads! It was a great effort of trial and error, with some students manipulating the technology to have the drone flip in the air.

Overall, a great lead into the final week of term for the 10T students.

Georgia Carson / Michael Stewart - 10T TEACHERS



'In Class' Performance Demonstrations

The VCAL Music Performance students perform for each other 'in class' to demonstrate their progress; stylistic choices, development of stagecraft and to gain more live playing experience. Pictured here are Hamish McGregor, Zephyr Samuels, Seb Gergis and Helena Wolozynska.

Every opportunity to perform live enhances and develops students' experiences making them stronger, more confident performing musicians. It is also incredibly rewarding, stimulating and satisfying to play music under these conditions. The whole class will be presenting their repertoire on the final day of Term 1 at an open aired outside cafe concert at 12:45pm on Thursday 1st April.

Pictured below: *Hamish McGregor, Zephyr Samuels, Seb Gergis, and Helena Wolozynsk*



Matt Rodd - NCAT MUSIC DEPARTMENT

School Formal

School Formal arrangements have now been finalised and will be held at **The Manor on High** - 519 High Street, Epping. A two course meal will be provided, DJ and Photo Booth. Come along and celebrate with your fellow students. The Formal has been brought forward this year to avoid it being cancelled due to possible re-introduction of COVID restrictions. We require a minimum of 100 guests for the formal to go ahead.

TICKETS: \$90 **DRESS:** Semi-formal **PAYMENT:** trybooking.com <https://www.trybooking.com/BQHBR>
Ticket sales will close 25th April

WHO CAN ATTEND: As the venue has number of restrictions only NCAT Y10-12 students can attend the formal; no external students or guests.

FORMAL AGREEMENT: Students will be required to sign a Formal Agreement if they are to attend the formal.

Note that Tuesday 4th May is a Curriculum Day and students will not be required at school. However, Wednesday 5th May is a normal VET day so students are required to attend VET classes as usual.

If you have any further enquires please contact Alex via email alex.tsenalidis@education.vic.gov.au

Alex Tsenalidis - VCAL LEARNING SPECIALIST