Welcome to the first edition of the Cadetship Courier, a monthly publication about the Vincentia High Indigenous Ranger Cadetship Program. This newsletter will document the journey of our cadets in the first year of this program. It will incorporate brief articles, photos, cadet profiles and outline upcoming events. This first edition covers the official ‘Welcome to Country’, by Wreck Bay Elders, at Booderee National Park, South Coast First Aid Training, a National Parks and Wildlife session at Greenfields Beach and the General Construction Induction with Graeme Cuttris.

Jonathan Hill
Indigenous Ranger Cadetship Program Mentor and Tutor

Some of the students attending the ‘Indigenous Ranger Cadetship Program’ with Mr Hill
What is the Indigenous Ranger Cadetship Pilot Program (IRCPP)?

The Indigenous Ranger Cadet Pilot is an initiative of Australian Government, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Vincentia High School has been fortunate enough to be 1 of 8 schools nationally to be selected, and the only high school in NSW to take part in the new’ Indigenous Ranger Cadetship (IRC) Pilot Program’.

The IRC Program seeks to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people complete school and encourage further study, training, jobs and careers in land, sea and natural resource management.

Students will study a Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management with some electives from a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management. Studies will be undertaken on a Wednesday both at school and off site.

Natural resource management organisations from the local area such as Booderee National Park, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Shoalhaven City Council, Catchment Management Authority and NSW State Forestry’s will provide opportunities for students to work in the above areas.

Ashlee Moon
Indigenous Ranger Cadetship Pilot Program Co-ordinator

IRCPP Partners:

- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
- Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
- Booderee National Park
- Catchment Management Authority
- Forestry Corporation NSW Southern Region
- Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Jervis Bay Marine Park
- Jervis Bay School
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council
- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
Aunty Wendy Brown and Aunty Annette Brown offered the cadets a most gracious welcome in the official meeting room at the Wreck Bay Council Office. Students were given an overview of the history of Wreck Bay that included a fascinating slideshow featuring pivotal moments in the community’s journey towards self-determination. The Elders implored the students to take tremendous pride in their Aboriginality and reminded them they are the leaders of the future.

Students then made their way to the Booderee Botanic Gardens where they were treated to a Dreamtime story session by Auntie Julie Freeman. Auntie Julie shared the Bundoola creation story and showed the students a range of artefacts that she had collected over the years, the most intriguing being a giant abalone shell with a natural inscription of a lorikeet inside.

After this they were treated to a barbeque to celebrate the beginning of the program, followed by a bush tucker walk with Uncle Bernie McLeod. Uncle Bernie talked about the nutritional and medicinal value of different plants and also shared some information on the history of the Botanic Gardens.
FIRST AID TRAINING

A large component of this program will require the cadets to spend time outdoors, amongst unforgiving bushland undertaking strenuous tasks. To ensure that all of us are prepared for any medical emergencies that may arise we acquired our First Aid Certificates, after a one day course, run by Greg White from South Coast First Aid Training.

The students were attentive and inquisitive as Mr White delivered his presentation that comprised a range of circumstances where first aid would be required. Students performed CPR on special dummies and practised the different methods of tying a sling. They also sat a multiple choice test to confirm they had retained the information presented.

GREENFIELDS BEACH WITH NPWS

The National Parks and Wildlife Service treated the cadets to a fun and informative day late in the day, the students were introduced to some staff of the NPWS who explained their role and led them through a range of activities. Students undertook exercises in mapping, bird identification and plant identification and walked through the surrounding bush to hone their newfound skills.

The highlight of the day was a visit by Dusty the Snake Man. From his thick hessian bags he revealed a Diamond Python and a Red Belly Black Snake. Some students had the privilege of handling a snake, while most were content to sit back and watch as the reptiles slithered around and occasionally hissed.

The day finished off with a barbeque and a surprisingly competitive game of beach cricket.
Grame Cuttriss from Admire Workplace Safety ran a General Construction Induction course at the Booderee National Park conference room. His presentation entailed a comprehensive Powerpoint slideshow that covered all facets of safety in the construction industry. We worked through the coursework together in our booklets, which we had to submit at the end of the day. Despite the long hours and the limited breaks the students are commended on maintaining their enthusiasm and concentration throughout the day.

Mr Cuttriss finished the course with a few light hearted video clips of instances where workmen haven't been so concerned with safety.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your favourite food?</td>
<td>Fish</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is your favourite drink?</td>
<td>Lemonade</td>
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<td>What music are you listening to?</td>
<td>Taylor Swift</td>
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<td>What are you watching on TV?</td>
<td>Home and Away</td>
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<td>What is your favourite subject at school?</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>What is your favourite beach?</td>
<td>Hyams</td>
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<td>What is your favourite sport?</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
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<td>Who do you follow in the NRL?</td>
<td>The Eels</td>
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<td>What do you think is important about the IRCPP?</td>
<td>This program is important because we are learning about culture. It is a great experience and will help us find a good job later on.</td>
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**Upcoming Events:**

- **February 20** – IRCPP Launch at Greenfields Beach, 10:30am – 12:00pm
- **February 27** – Auswide weeding at local beach
- **March 6** – Auswide coursework