

Marrma' Rom Two Worlds Foundation

Focus on Yirmal Marika

Yirmal Marika was one of the four lads who started with the program last year. This year Yirmal is studying Year 12 VCAL at St. Joseph's, and is hoping to graduate at the end of the year. Yirmal is also studying Cert 3 Music Performance at Oxygen Music College, Geelong. He is developing his songwriting, vocal and instrument skills, and is hoping to record a CD later this year.

In April Yirmal attended the RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp at Kangarooie, Victoria, at the invitation of the Geelong Rotary Club. At the camp he made many friends and took part in goal setting workshops and teamwork activities.

One senses that Yirmal has embarked on an interesting and challenging life journey. He has great leadership qualities, pride in his family and culture, and a real desire to make his community stronger.

Photo of Yirmal that appeared in an article written by Danny Larnen in the Geelong Advertiser



Dion, Yirmal and Raven. Photo courtesy of the Geelong Advertiser

Greetings

It has been a very busy semester for the Marrma' Rom Two Worlds Foundation, and there is much to report. The Sunset Dreaming Fundraiser, held early in Term 1, was a great start to the year. We raised about \$8,000 and received great support from almost 200 people who attended, many of whom did not attend last year's fundraising event and were newcomers to the Marrma' Rom Foundation.

The boys have been working really hard at St. Joseph's College. Yirmal Marika is on track to graduate at the end of the year, and we hope to fly his proud parents down for his Graduation Ceremony. Dion Wunungmurra and Raven Marika came down to Geelong and entered the Leadership Program at the start of the year, and Jerol Wunungmurra joined us in Term 2. We hope that these boys stay in the program until they finish Year 12.



Lake Bolac Eel Festival

Late in Term 1 the boys performed at the Lake Bolac Eel Festival, at the invitation by Neil Murray - Lake Bolac local and festival organiser. Neil met the boys when he kindly performed at our Sunset Dreaming Fundraiser in March.

The boys did some impromptu busking on the banks of Lake Bolac during the afternoon-playing Arnhem Land covers-which earned them some money and created much interest amongst the festivalgoers. That night they performed a half hour set of traditional Yolngu "Manikay" ceremonial songs on the main stage, coming on after Coloured Stone and before Carus Thompson. They received great applause from the packed crowd. The boys have been invited back next year to perform again; next time they'll be given a full hour on the main stage to perform a mix of traditional manikay and Arnhem pop music.



The boys performing on stage at Lake Bolac Eel Festival

Jerol Wunungmurra joined us in Geelong at the start of Term 2. Jerol, like Dion, comes from Gapuwiyak - a small community about 200 km east of Nhulunbuy. Jerol has entered Year 10 at St. Joseph's. Jerol loves footy, and is playing in the U/16B's at St. Mary's. He is strong in traditional culture, being another up-and-coming didg player and singer of Ceremonial 'Manikay' songs. Jerol will undertake keyboard lessons at school next term. Jerol is a sensible and mature lad and has immersed himself into the Leadership Program. When the boys performed at the recent Cats' Supporters Club pre-game function before the Cats v Pies AFL game, Jerol took the microphone and role of 'Manikay' Ceremonial Song singer. Yirmal accompanied him on the didg, while Dion and Raven danced. It was an impressive debut by Jerol, and a sign of things to come.

Welcome to Jerol Wunungmurra

Gapuwiyak, or Lake Evella



With Geelong Captain Joel Selwood after the game.



With Jimmy Bartel in the change rooms



The boys in a Corporate Box watching the Cats play in Geelong.



Raven, Dion and Jerol after their first match for St. Mary's. Check the results below.

St. Joseph's News

All four lads have been highly engaged with their busy programs at St. Joseph's College. Dion and Raven are in the same class, with Jono Holt as their Homeroom teacher. Raven is learning the bass guitar, and Dion is learning the drums. Dion performed a solo percussion piece at the recent 2012 St. Joseph's Percussion Review. Jerol is also in Year 10, albeit in a different class; being on his own means that his exposure to English is even greater, and this will hasten his improvement in literacy.

Yirrma is one of four "Fire Carriers" at Joeys this year, a Leadership Position. As part of his VCAL Certificate, Yirrma is training to be a coffee Barista—we'll look for a job for him in that field when he is qualified.

All boys are well supported by great teachers at Joeys, in particular Lauren Flint. They do private Maths tuition with Anne Thomas twice a week, and Peter Canaway and Smoky Dawson tutor them after school each Wednesday for an hour in English. This personalised program is a reflection of the great commitment St. Joseph's College have made to the Marrma' Rom Leadership Program.

Earlier in the term, the year 10 lads did a week of work experience in the Geelong community. It was a valuable learning experience for the 3 boys, and big thanks to Scott Hosking at KFC, Mitch at Blood Toyota, and Chris Higgins and David McDonald at David McDonald Builders.



Jerol, Dion and Raven met Joel Bowden and Sharrod Wellingham at the Marrngrook Footy Show. The boys attended the filming of the show in Melbourne with other students from Clonard and St. Joseph's Colleges.

Footy News

The boys are all playing at St. Mary's again this year, with Yirrma in the U/18 Colts and Dion, Raven and Jerol in U/16s. They have been training hard and are looking fit and strong, and this has produced some great performances.

Unfortunately Yirrma recently re-injured a hamstring tear, which will see him on the sidelines for 5 more weeks. He is determined to do a thorough rehabilitation and make it back in time for the finals. Raven and Dion, in the U/16A team, are yet to lose a game and are red-hot favourites to win the flag. They are playing very good football; kicking goals every week and adjusting their game to the more physical type of football played down here. Jerol is working hard in the U/16B team. His past 2 games have shown great improvement in his confidence, fitness, ability to take a pack, and his run and carry with the ball.

During Term 2, Dion and Raven represented St. Joseph's in the Year 10 Catholic Schools Football competition. St. Joseph's were the most consistent team in the competition and earlier this month dominated Parade College, from Melbourne, in a cold, wet and windy grand final in Geelong to take out the Premiership.

Goal Kickers:

D.Wunungmurra 7, J.Abrehart 3, **J.Wunungmurra 3**, J.Williamson, S.Bourke, **R.Marika**, J.Stokes, B.Maynard, O.Godsell

Best Players:

D.Wunungmurra, **J.Wunungmurra**, H.Mitchell, B.Maynard, J.Abrehart, J.Williamson

