



ASHE Students with Kutcha Edwards (centre back) and ASHE Student Support Officer Doreen Wright (far right).

Opening Day at ASHE A Success

The opening day at ASHE for 2008 was held on the 11th February and proved a huge success for staff, students and their families. All present enjoyed a special presentation by the legendary Kutcha Edwards.

A Mutti Mutti man born in Balrannald, New South Wales, Kutcha has a long history of service and inspiration for Aboriginal people and communities. This is now stronger than ever thanks to his flourishing music career which has seen him perform all over Australia and in many places overseas.

With many ASHE students having close ties to Kutcha and a great love for his work, it has long been talked about getting him involved in the program. The students certainly could not have picked a better guest to open their year.

With both his words and music, Kutcha offered strong encouragement and motivation to the students in regards to believing in themselves, beating the odds and achieving their goals; just as he continues to do.

ASHE Student Support Officer Doreen Wright said it was a perfect way to start the year with a visit from Kutcha.

"When he speaks, people listen and that's the way it was at ASHE. It was just great," Doreen said.

Along with Kutcha's visit, ASHE was as always delighted to have much loved community elder Aunty Irene Thomas attend opening day to offer a special prayer and words of encouragement for ASHE staff and students in their endeavours throughout the year.

ASHE Director Receives Leadership Award

ASHE Director Justin Mohamed was recently awarded with a Future Summit 2008 Leadership Award.



Justin Mohamed

The award aims to recognise and support a new generation of potential Australian leaders.

"It is such an honour to be recognised in this way," Justin said. "I feel this confirms the value of the work we have been doing at ASHE as well as the overall value of indigenous programs in the Goulburn Valley."

"To be considered as a future leader is some what daunting; however, I am excited to be able to represent our region and country to provide input into our future," he added.

As part of Justin's award, he will receive an open invitation to participate in Future Summits over the next three years.



Kutcha Edwards with ASHE Student Rosaline Bamblett.

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ASHE is a joint initiative between:





ASHE Students Allyson Clark, Berry Street Victoria's Paul Legge, Cheynie Pearce and Michael Baxter

Students Driving For The Future

The Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE) has combined with Berry Street Victoria, Vic Roads and Victoria Police to run a successful new driver development program this year.

Over three sessions ASHE students were given the chance to explore the ins and outs of a motor car thanks to the experienced Berry Street Victoria (BSV) motor mechanics team.

In session two students were given an overview of existing licensing requirements and impending changes to the system thanks to VicRoads Senior Customer Service Officer Brent Payne.

The final session involved a visit to ASHE by Shepparton Police Sergeant Marty McLachlan to discuss the importance of road safety and responsible driving.

ASHE manager Phil Guthrie said the key to the program's success was its relevance and simplicity.

"Many of our students are at an age where gaining a license or developing as drivers is at the forefront of their mind," Phil said.

"In three sessions this program looked at understanding and maintaining a motor car, gaining your license and driving responsibly once you have it.

"Hopefully this can be a positive step towards many of our students gaining their license and making the most of it once they have it."



Chris Turner, Belinda Meyers, Sergeant Marty McLachlan and Madeline Briggs

ASHEletics



'08

ASHEletics - ASHE's peak annual community event - is back bigger than ever in 2008. Set down for Shepparton Sports Stadium on Wednesday 18th June, ASHEletics will this year incorporate physical activities and performance into something similar to a mini Croc Fest.

ASHE's Jason Briggs said all systems are go for a great event. "We'll have the traditional games as normal this year and in the afternoon we're looking to introduce a performance aspect where all participating schools will be encouraged to put on an act on some sort," Jason said.

"ASHE students are also working on their own performances which should make for a fantastic event." ASHEletics will run from 9.00 am - 3.00pm on 18th June. For more information contact ASHE on (03) 5823 6600 or email sjbriggs@unimelb.edu.au



Bernie Coonan with ASHE Students Jye Warren, Andrew Ince, Allyson Clark and David Mellington

Special Needs Kick It To ASHE

ASHE is delighted to be at the forefront of a fantastic new community initiative giving special needs children in Shepparton the chance to participate in the popular Auskick program.

ASHE students Andrew Ince, Jye Warren and Allyson Clark have been appointed by GV Family Care to coordinate Auskick sessions each Thursday night at Rumbalara Football Netball Club for up to 10 special needs children.

Andrew, Jye and Allyson said they never could have imagined how rewarding it might be to participate in such a program.

"The kids love it and so do we," Jye said. "I look forward to it every week. It's one of the best things I've ever done."

So You Think You Can Dance?

A select group of ASHE students enjoyed the chance to dance up a storm as part of a visit to Shepparton by *Out There - Australian Ballet in Schools*.

Warwick Davis, Stephen Knight, Mahalia Pettit, Madeline Briggs, Cheynie Pearce and Tom Baxter all enjoyed the chance to work with the Australian Ballet School in the contemporary dance workshop.

"It was a great experience. We really enjoyed it," the ASHE crew agreed.

Out There aims to create an awareness of dance in a positive, exciting and participatory way and encourages participants to be alert, fit and imaginative, stimulating expressive exploration in dance.

Thanks to Berry Street Victoria for giving our students the chance to participate.



Former Students Join Team As Staff

ASHE is delighted to welcome former students, Doreen Wright and Chris Turner, to its student support team in 2008. Doreen is filling the female student support vacancy left by Nicole Morris's return to Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative at the end of 2007. Chris is an addition to the ASHE team taking on a teacher's aid role and also coordinating a range of extracurricular activities. ASHE manager Phil Guthrie said the employment opportunities were just rewards for the efforts of both Chris and Doreen as ASHE students. "Both showed enormous commitment to ASHE as students and it's been no different now they are part of our staff," Phil said.



My Moola Back For 2008

ASHE is delighted to once again have My Moola gracing its offices in 2008. My Moola was developed by First Nations Foundation in partnership with ANZ. It strives to open greater financial pathways for the Goulburn Valley Indigenous community and potentially Indigenous people across the country.

First Nations Foundation Chief Executive Officer Colette McInerney said the learnings of 2007 were making for an even more relevant and engaging My Moola program this year. "The Facilitators are doing a wonderful job of engaging participants in these fun and interactive workshops and by all accounts participants are enjoying themselves whilst learning valuable skills and strategies for now and into the future. We are certainly noticing the progression with great enthusiasm," Colette said.

My Moola is run over 10 sessions covering a range of topics related to holding your own and getting ahead financially.

Community facilitators Leanne Sangster, Julie Ferguson, and Wendy McHugh, together with local program coordinator Belinda Briggs deliver the program on behalf of a range of community partners. To enrol in My Moola or find out more information contact Belinda at KRIC on 5831 3124 or 0439 303 711.



My Moola coordinators Julie Ferguson, Leanne Sangster, Collette McInerney, Belinda Briggs and Wendy McHugh.

Wilin Week at VCA

ASHE students were delighted to participate in the annual Wilin Week program at the Victorian College of the Arts this year. With both being indigenous-focused initiatives of The University of Melbourne, ASHE enjoys almost a brother-sister relationship with Wilin which will hopefully be built upon in the future. It was certainly great for our students to have a taste of all that Wilin has to offer and hopefully it's not too long before an ASHE graduate is taking centre stage at the VCA.

Well done Jarrod Atkinson

Well done to former ASHE student Jarrod Atkinson on making his AFL debut with Essendon this year. Jarrod debuted for the Bombers in their round seven match against Port Power which is a great achievement given he was playing in the Murray League less than two years ago.

Dhurringile Visit Insightful

ASHE passes on a special vote of thanks to Dhurringile Prison for hosting its

students for a special visit in April. As part of the tour students heard from inmates who spoke openly on what a difference one or two poor choices can make in people's lives. "It was a real insight and really powerful to hear," ASHE student Darren Turner said.

Thanks for Cummeragunja Christmas Party Support

It was remiss of us in our February issue of "the beat" not to offer sincere thanks to all those businesses and organisations which supported our involvement with the Cummeragunja Kids Christmas Party last year. These included our parent body Rumbalara Football Netball Club which generously donated money and a range of sporting equipment to the initiative. Thanks to all for the support.

Tyson Working at MCP

Congratulations to ASHE student Tyson Lovett-Murray on securing employment with the rapidly growing Macauley Champagnat Program (MCP) in Shepparton. Tyson was only with ASHE for a short time after commencing work

at the start of term two. He joins another former ASHE student, Colin Colger, in a student support role at MCP.

Students Learn Digital Photography with ACE

ASHE students have enjoyed the chance to work again this year with digital media guru Damien Neil from Shepparton Adult and Community Education (ACE).

Damien worked with a number of ASHE students in the first part of this year on presentations to be shown as part of an upcoming multicultural exhibition in Shepparton.



Damien Neil from ACE with ASHE student Stephen Knight

