



Editorial

George Belcher, School Vice-Captain

Despite the barriers of Distance Learning, and in the midst of times of hardship, Harambee can say with pride that it carried on with its vital work in the same spirit of persistence and fervour with which it would run normally.

In Harambee the concept of 'thinking small' is almost considered illegal. But as a result of current affairs, the start of Term 2 saw the team choose to focus on the things closer to home in our local community. We've had a long-standing connection with Good Grub, a program providing meals to those in our community suffering from serious mental health issues. As a result of COVID-19 and the ensuing isolation from their regular food sources, many of these vulnerable people had been struggling to get food on the table. In response, the Harambee team asked the Trinity Community to reach out and drop fresh groceries and non-perishables at Habitat Uniting Church and, ultimately, with the help of a substantial number of Trinity families, we were able to provide over 700 meals a week to support nearly 200 people, which is a phenomenal result.

Time away from school campus has given the Harambee team plenty of time to plan. Following a moving and inspiring National Reconciliation Week with a number of fantastic activities and insightful guest speakers, we're looking forward to the next event. In typical Mr Purcell fashion, it's going to be a little bit 'out there', but as always, memorable! We're planning to host 'The Big Splash' in the first week of Term 3, the second iteration of a highly popular event run in 2017. A dunk tank with your favourite teachers and Captains – what could go wrong? But as many have come to know, three things are certain in life: death, taxes, and any event run by Harambee will have sausages.



National Reconciliation Week - In this together

Oscar Howard

This year's National Reconciliation Week was a great success, serving as a terrific platform to generate advocacy and start conversations about Australia's rich Indigenous culture. The Week began with the annual Truth & Reconciliation Breakfast, the highlight of which was an insightful panel discussion about the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous education with Mr Bean and guest speakers Shelley Ware and Douglas Briggs.

The following morning, at the Senior School Assembly, local Wurundjeri elder Uncle Bill Nicholson conducted a traditional Smoking Ceremony, which was followed by an eye-opening speech from Stan Grant – a bestselling author, award-winning journalist and Wiradjuri man from New South Wales – on the future of the issues that face Indigenous people. Finally, the first ever House Boomerang Throwing Competition was a smashing success, serving as a fun way to conclude the Week's events.

Overall, 2020's National Reconciliation Week was a special one, bringing the school together to work towards building a fully reconciled nation, whilst also allowing everyone to learn more about Indigenous culture and reflect on the history of the First Nations Australians. A big thank you has to go out to Mr Newcastle, Mr Bean and the entire Harambee team for ensuring everything was in place to make the Week and its events a huge success.

"When I see ceremonies like this morning, at assemblies like this, I'm reminded that these are the places where hope is born. And without hope, we can't build a better future."

- Stan Grant -



House Boomerang Throwing Competition

Paul Lindsay, Roberts House Captain

On Friday 29 May, I was privileged with the opportunity to take part in the first ever House Boomerang Throwing Competition at Trinity as part of our National Reconciliation Week celebrations. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to have the younger year levels in attendance with us, but with some extraordinary work from Luke Dixon, Ben Ryder, Charlie Limmer, Ben Robison and Will Condick, we were able to set up a livestream for all to enjoy. George Belcher's exceptional commentary provided great entertainment to accompany the throwing, as well as giving all listeners an insight into Indigenous culture through the use of facts and figures.

The event was a brilliant success with all Heads of House and House Captains giving their best throw and supporting one another whilst thoroughly enjoying themselves. Although there was no definitive winner, Michael Forwood's final throw nearly resulted in him taking a stunning catch and there were countless memorable throws, including Mr Colussa's one that went over the fence. I hope that Trinity can continue to run this event for many years to come as a reminder to all of us to continue to strengthen our relationship with the Indigenous community and forge a stronger and more united Australia for the future.



Update from the field

As a result of the changing landscape with COVID-19, our East Africa programs have had to adapt their activities to the situation.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on our friends in Uganda. Like Australia, the country has been in lockdown and the restrictions have left many vulnerable families and children without income opportunities or food. Unfortunately, countries in Africa do not have the same kind of safety net as we do in Australia. Harambee's two key ministries in Uganda are the Village of Hope and Hope Community High School, whom we have been supporting recently through the provision of child sponsorships. Following the onset of COVID-19, a food program has been set up to help neighbours most at risk cope throughout the food crisis.

In response to restrictions, the Brother Beausang Vocation Centre in Ngong, Kenya has developed a new program to support mothers coping with the crisis by educating them on how to take care of themselves and their young children. In striving to assist these vulnerable parents and help them stand on their feet, the Centre has conducted home visits, a food program, small group meetings to share information, and the provision of assistance in accessing public services. The Centre's staff have taught the importance of wearing masks, washing hands frequently and limiting movement if possible, as well as how to make liquid soap for home use.

