



# AUTUMN 2015

Ed. Paul Liknaitzky

## ARRIVALS

Amy, Waratah and Paul have a new house-mate! Amy gave birth to him in the water at home on January 4th. His name is Gulliver Lion, and he's remarkably beautiful (Editor's note: if I don't mind saying so myself!).



Gulliver

## RAIN IN THE GUMTREES, by Faye

Our study of Wind in the Willows with the Biggies began, as is custom, at the Fairfield Boat House. The Biggies and I were accompanied, as usual, by my two stalwart sons, Nick (FCS:1983) and Sean (FCS:1990). Although the cold, wet weather tried to dampen our spirits, our spirits remained high, and dry. In chapter one of WITW, Rat gets tipped into the river. Although no one was tipped into the river, given the inclement weather, we returned to school looking like drowned rats – albeit happy drowned rats! A memorable beginning to the novel.

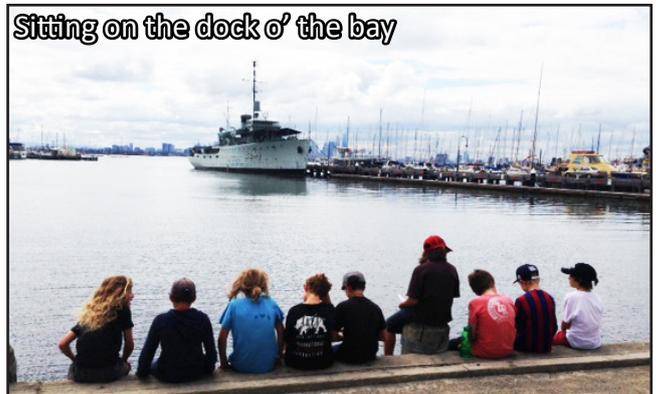
## THORNBURY EXPANSION, by Joelle

What a start to the year at the Thornbury campus! Our school of ten students has

rapidly grown to a school of 23! Our new students have really added to the school, and our experienced initiates have been supportive and welcoming. This term we held the first-ever Thornbury Fete. Our Middlies did a great job organising a heap of fantastic stalls and we were fortunate to have the FCS Lions, Tigers and Bears as customers. Children from both sites had a lovely time and many of us made some excellent purchases. On considering the impact of Alzheimer's on some of our families, the Middlies and Clotilde decided to donate the raised funds (\$530) to Alzheimer's Australia.

## CLASSROOM (FL)OUTINGS, by Nat

This term, I somehow managed to swindle my way into the brilliant position of Outings Taker. Each week, the adventures really took on a life of their own, with the intrepid travellers finding themselves 88 floors up, being followed by cheeky street performers, casually relaxing on a ferry ride through the inner city, and so on. The students' resilience, courage and sense of adventure are evident on every excursion. Needless to say, I feel as though I have the best job. Ever.



Sitting on the dock o' the bay

## TIME-TRAVELLING DOWNTOWN, by Mary

On March 20th, Mary and Miranda took The Echidnas on the tram to visit the Koori

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Heritage Trust in the city (thanks Peter Barrett for the suggestion). We were shown around by Len, an Aboriginal man with a great wealth of historical and cultural knowledge. At the Flagstaff Gardens, Len described what it was like there before colonial settlement. He had some great historical artworks showing just a handful of small buildings around the Flagstaff Gardens in the 1830s, which helped us to imagine what it was like back then. He showed us how to tell which trees had possums living in them by looking at the bark, pointed out where there used to be a lake and a creek, and told us how the women in the local tribe would collect food down the hill where there used to be a wetland. We got to handle boomerangs, possum pelt cloaks and spear throwers. We saw Banjil the Creator Spirit in the form of a Wedge Tail Eagle and heard creation stories.

wonderful out in the bush! The only downer of the whole camp was the lack of electricity in Ballan on the way home....no coffee!! Luckily there was still gas, so the children had chips. Thanks to all involved. Great spirit amongst the adults, which of course translates to great spirit amongst the children.



**DAREBIN PARKLANDS**, by Miranda  
 Over the past 3 years, Mary and I have often taken our Friday outing groups to the beautiful Darebin Parklands. These Parklands comprise a large section of bushland that runs along the Darebin Creek, and have open grassy areas for running around on and bushy areas to explore and climb trees in. There is also a lovely creek and a few lake/pond/swamp areas that are home to many birds. We usually start with a picnic under a big tree. The kids love running up and down the steep dusty path and doing a bit of rock climbing. We then head off towards the creek and sometimes spend the rest of our time there. The children love building log-bridges and making natural face-paint with the rocks there. Sometimes we wander along the Aboriginal Spiritual Walk, reading the plaques and reflecting on life. On other days we sit and watch the ducks by a little waterfall, cooling our feet off in the water. Some days we go for a long wander and pick up rubbish. We are always accompanied by the beautiful sounds and sights of the birds, the fresh and very Australian smell of the air and the lovely peace of the trees. The children love the Parklands and I feel that they are getting to know the place well: there is a deep relationship that they are building with the nature we encounter there. I feel that this place might always hold special memories for them, and this quality of relationship is one of the reasons I like to go back there so often rather than always explore new places.



**TINIES CAMP**, by Nettie  
 A large contingent of parents, children, Phillip and Netti headed to the tree farm on a very windy day for the Tinies Camp. In almost no time at all, a tent-city sprang up and the children got stuck into the serious activities of camp life: digging in the dirt, jumping on the trampoline, dragging the old billy cart around, finding bugs, playing in the three-level cubby... while the adults played Boggle relentlessly. Yummy dinner was cooked by Ben (father of Ella), Jo (mother of Electra) provided delicious hors-d'oeuvres (including oysters!) and Carolyn (mother of Clara) provided dessert (a yummy cake – enough for 24 pieces). Alex's usual contribution of bread tasted even more

## CANDLEBARK AND FCS ON SBS

In case you missed it, SBS screened a program on Candlebark and FCS. The segment is available at [www.tinyurl.com/fcssbs](http://www.tinyurl.com/fcssbs).



Starting young, with the help of a veteran

## THORNBURY CAMPS, by Joelle

It's always great to introduce a new group of children to the joys of camp. At Thornbury, our first camp was with our seven Tinies and three parents at the Tree Farm. The Tinies were great little campers, had a wonderful time and came back to school with the extra confidence that being independent in the bush always gives. Our second camp was with the Blues and Reds, and the first camp for our new students Raya, Liliana and Tom. One highlight was the nightly games of Spot-o. It was lovely to see the Thornbury old-timers encouraging the new students and sharing old camp secrets.

## THE BENEFITS OF WEDNESDAY AT FCS

By Arno (Thornbury Year 3): People who don't go to FCS are missing out on a lot. You must change schools if you don't have a fun Wednesday. All schools should have a special Wednesday because students need one day off to go swim and play on computers. It's just fun.

By Beth (Thornbury Year 4) All kids need to have one fun day with lollies. This is because it will stop people pleading for lollies at home and all day at school. When you give kids lollies one day a week, they know that they don't have to try to do anything to get them and they won't have to sneak them into the school. All kids should get lolly day.

## WARMING UP, by Keith

The day before school officially kicked off this year, our Biggies and senior Middlies were invited to Edinburgh Gardens for a Basketball

lightning premiership. Twenty students turned up and were divided into 6 teams. Teams played a few 'round robin' 7-minute games, and each team won at least one game, so the competition was close. In the end, 'The Pearls' took the trophy: congratulations to Chloe, Seb, Edi and Edward! Both Biggies and Middlies are training most Wednesdays for the Hoop Time matches in Term 2 and 3.

## BIGGIE GIRLS' MYSTERY CAMP AT DAYLESFORD, by Faye

It was my good fortune to take these delightful girls on their mystery camp. We had a wonderful week, graciously hosted by my son, Jeremy (FCS:1986), and his 7-year-old daughter, Om. Activities were many and varied: the Hepburn Bathhouse; cross-country running; a Malaysian restaurant; pasta made at home from scratch; memory techniques; how to plot a bestseller; a visit to the Dharma school; exploring the Mill Markets and the Convent Gallery; swimming at Kyneton Bushland Resort; rehearsing (ad nauseum) the clapping song for the school concert; and to finish the camp off, washing the Bumpy Bus (their own idea), the original



Toddler Jeremy in 1977 beside the Bumpy Bus



Jeremy hosting Biggie Girls Mystery Camp, 2015

FCS bus, now in Jeremy's care. It was lovely to hear, via another visitor to the Hepburn Bathhouse, that the manager had said to her that our girls were the best behaved group of young people ever to visit the spa. His words confirmed my experience of the Biggie girls during the camp.

#### FAREWELL

Tanya has left us for a tree change – Candlebark – and a full time teaching position. We hope that all goes well.

#### ALUMNI NUPTUALS

Congratulations to Amy Prendergast (FCS:1991) and Daniel Juhasz on their recent marriage. A lovely event attended by a number of former FCS families.



#### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Emma Lightfoot (FCS:2008) was awarded Dux of the Academy of Mary Immaculate for 2014. Well done, Emma!

Alessia Castello (FCS:2008) received the La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor Award in Arts/Health Science to make her a La Trobe Ambassador. Well done Alessia!

Leah Polycarpou (FCS:2008) received an offer from Eastern Kentucky University to study and compete in running on a full athlete scholarship. Run on Leah!

#### KEEPING THE BOOKS

When paying school fees on the World Wide Web, be sure to include your invoice number or name. Also, please notify Jennifer at [bookkeeper@fcs.vic.edu.au](mailto:bookkeeper@fcs.vic.edu.au) of any change of address or contact details for both parents and staff.

#### ADVERT: SURVEY

Psychology researchers at the University of Western Australia are looking for parents



with children aged 8-16 to participate in an online survey (10 mins parents, 15 mins children). To participate, go to [www.tinyurl.com/mychildisspecial](http://www.tinyurl.com/mychildisspecial) or call Kate on 0411 811 212.

#### ADVERT: FAMILY CRAFTING

Monthly Family Crafting Workshops are being held in Northcote. These are sessions to enrich whole-family experiences and relationships. Families of all ages (pre-Weenies to grandparents) can play and explore together with clay, wood, beeswax and fleece. We include a story and movement to inspire and create community. Carol Likhaitzky and her team of skilled and child-friendly crafters, Nikki Fletcher, John Elliott and three helpers, give support and guidance in turning natural materials into beautiful creations. Monthly Sundays from 2-5pm. Upcoming sessions: 12 April, 3 May, 7 June. For more info or to book, please email [cliknaitzky@gmail.com](mailto:cliknaitzky@gmail.com) or call 0415 603 077.

#### ADVERT: AUSKICK

Fitzroy Carlton Auskick at the W.T. Peterson Oval, Fitzroy North (opposite FCS) on Saturdays 9-10:30am. Season starts Saturday 18th April. All boys and girls aged 5 to 12 years welcome. \$86 for 15 Clinics and a backpack full of footy goodies. Register and pay online [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au).

