

# Harmony Day: the Key message was "Everyone Belongs"



Student Services celebrated Harmony Day on 3 June 2009 through a concert performance of poetry, music, drama, dance and art. The theme for the performance was the Harmony Day key message: *Everyone Belongs*. With student and staff participation, the concert performance was a great success. Here are some of the highlights:



Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (AIEO) Aiden Jeanes started the celebrations with a self-penned simple and poignant poem about belonging.

A school band formed especially for the event and kicked off the concert with a beautiful and original composition penned by Yr 12 students Ibrahim (School Captain) and Alex.



Year 12s Alex on lead guitar and vocals, with Sue on piano



Year 12, Sue, on piano



Year 10s Darcy on drums



Ibby on bass with Sue on piano (and Mr Wong on sound)

Next up were the drama improvs written by the students and based on relevant peer group pressure issues. The students chose and presented themes on being *Social in the quadrangle; gay parenting; and wealth* along with the possible conflict resolutions that promote the ideal 'we all bleed the same blood, give people a chance'.



Year 10 students Jadiesha, Jessica, Taylor and Jacob



Taylor and Jessica



Jacob showing what it is like to feel isolated



Iain talking to the attentive audience

From here, Yr 10 dance students performed breathtaking choreography to the Annie Lennox song, *Why*.



*Why* performed by Year 10 dance students: Choreographed by Ms Avion

The band then returned to play Nickelback's pop hit song *If Everyone Cared*. This was followed by guests Damien Thornber and Emily Minchin, from the band *Damien Thornber and The Orphans* and the charity organisation *VOW Educational Services*, who shared with us how we can care beyond our own community.



Damien with Emily on viola

Damien and Emily played songs and talked about how *VOW Educational Services* works to provide for those less fortunate than ourselves.

New Chaplain to the Hampton High scene, Ray Redner, then spoke to us about how the 'healthiest environments are the most diverse' likening cultural diversity within our school community to the natural environment, which led us into the request 'to make *our generation* at Hampton High, leaders of inclusivity'...and so the band played...*Talking about [Hampton High's] Generation* by The Who, to great applause!



Chaplain Ray Redner

The concert concluded with the Yr 9 dance students performing *That's Not My Name* by the Ting Ting's. The dance was set in a schoolyard, was great fun to watch, and great music to cheer to.



*That's Not My Name* performed by Year 9 dance students: Choreographed by Ms Mohamed

All the students involved were commendable. Time they put into rehearsing meant giving up lunchtimes (and for some, recess as well) 2 or 3 times a week over the 6 weeks leading up to the concert. Songs had to be researched, chosen (and written); improv's had to be discussed, tried out and scripted (consider too, that some of the improv's were acted by students who had no drama experience at all!). Their efforts were impressive and the end result was an outstanding achievement.

Behind every great performance there is a bunch of great people working the machinations: we are able to especially thank Ms Clough (Drama) for kindly sharing her workspace so that the band could have a place to rehearse; Mr Wong (Media) who gave his time and musical expertise to support the band; dance teachers Ms Avion and Ms Mohamed who gave their encouragement (and dance classes!) to the program; the Phys Ed Dept who handed over their gymnasium so willingly for the performance concert, and Student Services who backed the production needs in every possible way.



Mr Wong works on the sound

Thanks also go to those students who had fun painting the backdrop posters of peace, happiness and love and to Mr Gray (Art) for documenting the performances with these great photos and more.

It's always amazing what can be done when everyone pitches in together. The willingness of all was, and is part and parcel, of the successful production that everyone enjoyed and of the great school we have.

It was a whole lot of fun and I think we can easily say that the words 'creative' and 'talented' are synonymous with Hampton High. Well done everyone!

Jess Kenny, Chaplain