

 **NEWSLETTER**

**No.9 August 6th 2015**

 **From the Principal’s Desk**

**Paul Taylor Visits...**

On Thursday 30th July and Monday 3rd August, Prospect North students and teachers were lucky enough to have Paul Taylor visit their classrooms. Paul has extensive knowledge and experience of Aboriginal culture, especially the Wardaman community in the Northern Territory. Paul has been a part of the Wardaman community for more than 20 years, having been taught and mentored by Bill Harney, an elder of the community and grandfather of our ACEO, Rebecca Bennett.

During his visits Paul engaged the students with songs and stories, and shared the idea that songs bring happiness to the land. Our students enjoyed learning about the stories of creation and the importance of the Dreamtime to understand the existence of the animals and insects, mountains and waterways, trees and plants. He shared his personal stories of how he learnt to connect with the land and how all aspects of nature, including people, are related to one another. He highlighted the key concept of “caring for the land”.

The younger classes participated in dances and songs, and heard Paul play a number of musical instruments, which are culturally significant to Aboriginal cultures. The older classes learnt poignant lessons about the Stolen Generations and the impact the events of the past have had on generations of families and communities to come. They also learnt about traditional medicine and the colonisation of Australia by European settlers. The engagement of the students was clearly evident during question time, where Paul answered questions students posed and made connections to the learning that had been taking place previously within their classrooms.

A special thanks goes to Rebecca for her extensive work in organising such an insightful event for our students, and welcoming such a special guest into our school for the benefit of all students and staff.