On the 17th and 18th of November, Marnie Thompson, Sheydin Bishop and myself were selected to participate in a teaching workshop at UTAS in Launceston. We were selected by Mr Grey and our Grade 10 teachers because we are interested in becoming teachers. The program was aimed at young Aboriginal students as currently there are only 0.7% of Aboriginal teachers in Australia, yet 10% of the population in Tasmania are Aborigines. Each session we did was designed to incorporate a significant Aboriginal component.

Our first activity was at the Cataract Gorge where Patsy Cameron did a welcome to the country and we had an ochre ceremony. The walk through the Gorge was awesome, as it is a significant site for Aborigines in Tasmania, with a highlight being all of us discovering and eating 'bush tucker'. That night we had a session at Riawunna and in the gym where we had some bonding and get to know each other activities. The Monday night we had tea at Morty’s and experienced life at University by staying in the very small one bedroom units at Kerslake Hall. The sharing of the toilet and shower blocks here, was not a highlight of the trip!

On Tuesday, we experienced some time in a lecture theatre as well as participating in a tutorial. Tuesday afternoon, after a barbecue lunch, Tayna Harper took us through a culture, community and connections learning workshop where our art skills were put to the test. Overall, this was a great cultural and learning experience and we would like to thank Mr Grey for the experience.

Josh Merritt