A Thirst for Change

Last weekend I joined some visiting English relatives on an organised tour of Melbourne street art. There was a huge range of works that I had never seen before, in laneways that meander through the southern part of the Central Business District (CBD).

One piece was called the Thirst for Change produced by a group known as Crooked Rib. This is a group of fourteen young Muslim women who came together to explore what it meant to them to be young, female and Muslim in Melbourne.

Crooked Rib undertook a collaborative project with UK-based street artist Mohammed Ali (also known as Aerosol Arabic) to produce Thirst for Change in Spark Lane, as part of the Melbourne International Arts Festival.

The piece is divided into two sections; the upper section is dominated by the words "Thirst for Change". Behind these words are motifs from graffiti art and Islamic geometric patterns. Underneath this slogan is generic scene city at night by a river framed by a dripping wet blue cloud. The scene is captioned with "Do not waste water even before a flowing river" – the Prophet Mohammed.

The artwork was produced during the period of extensive drought from 2003 to 2009 and Melbourne was very low on water. Until the weekend, we have also been experiencing low rainfall in 2014.

One of the objectives of the piece was to identify the need for conservation of resources and the Crooked Rib group was clearly keen to spread this message to the Melbourne community.

With our 2014 College theme being We can make the change, it is worth reflecting on our efforts to reduce the wastage of resources. We currently harvest water for our grounds from the rooftops of our newer buildings, have a range of solar panels to reduce our use of electricity and utilise recycling bins for paper products in particular. There is much more that can be done, however, and we will be continuing to devise ways to reduce our environmental footprint.

This is reflected by the last sentence of the Acknowledgement of Country that is presented at major assemblies during the year:

May we continue to follow the traditional custodians and our College forebears in the passing on of knowledge and the teaching of life skills, as well as continue with wise stewardship of our buildings and grounds.

Overnewton Road Bus Stop

I was advised on Wednesday afternoon that all bus drivers returning students to Keilor Campus from sport training had nowhere to park on the Overnewton Road bus stop. All of the bus parking area was taken up by parents' cars.
The buses clearly cannot be double-parked and the drivers cannot be expected to keep driving up and down until there is a legal spot for them to pull into. I will be contacting the Brimbank traffic administrators in order to have their officers book cars using the bus stop (at any time of the day).

Please do not park on the Overnewton Road bus stop at any time.