



Conner Whyte, Buckeley Barker-Rose, Cassidy Waters, Marietta Diallo,

## **Drama at the Bridgetown High School**

The year eight drama class has two short plays well underway; the story lines have been decided upon, the plays have a horror theme.

The plays have been written collaboratively by the students, Luke, Kyan, Hammish, Abby, Kelly, Cassidy, Marietta, Buckeley, Conner Luke, Kyan, Rani and Zac.

Their thoughts and ideas are being written into scripts, ideas on music accompaniment are being considered and their roles have been decided. Some students have acting roles, while others have lighting and sound duties. The plays have come down to the final polishing of the story line, timing and costumes.

One of the plays is 'American Monster', which starts with a group sitting around a camp fire telling each other scary tales. Suddenly Connor, a person in the group who's been swigging on a bottle, interrupts and brags, "I'll tell you a really scary story". He takes another drink, and starts, "Once upon a time in a Day Care Centre in Russia a Health and Safety Officer confiscates all the guns and vodka in the centre ...". So, the nightmare begins, including flash backs scenes to Connor's childhood, a tale of 'taking to the bottle to block out the past', all staged around the camp fire.

The other play is called 'Virus'. Yes, a contemporary issue and a story the students have been thinking about.

This play starts in a doctor's surgery with a patient who is a Botanist. The patient has been working in the forest where he has just discovered a new fungus deep in the woods, but after doing so he falls ill and seeks help at the doctor's surgery.

The Doctor (played by Luke) considers the symptoms and feels the Botanist has a cold coming on and he tells the patient "Go home and rest, you will feel better in the morning, and if you don't, come and see me again". So, the Botanist goes home, where he dies.

At the end of the day the Doctor returns home to find his children are planning an evening out, they are going to a dance. He wishes them well and retires to bed because he is feeling tired.

Will the alarm bells ring in the doctor's mind to the contagion? Will procedures be put in place to stop the spread of the virus at the dance or will his community be infected and wiped out?

Yes, two modern horror stories that reflect Australian Society today.

The two tales are thought provoking and show that 'Story telling is alive and well'.