



Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School

Many Cultures, One Community

www.yiramalay.net

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More than a Word, Reconciliation Takes Action

Term 2 at Yiramalay/Wesley Studio school was huge! It was a long term and it turns out we needed every minute to get through everything we had set our sights on. Reconciliation Week was celebrated at our school with community involvement, the introduction of our student leadership team, including 2021 School Captains. The theme, *More than a Word, Reconciliation Takes Action*, is not a difficult concept for those associated with this great school. It's our day to day, and this was again shown in the leadership shown by staff and students through Reconciliation Week filled with sharing stories, experiences, cultural practices and understandings with our Induction groups.

The return of Inductions from Melbourne to Yiramalay was a cause for celebration as our two-way learning philosophy had life breathed back into it. Each individual from Melbourne brings their own ideas and life experiences to this journey and each individual leaves, having had a rare opportunity to live and learn in the studio school context. The partnership is alive in these moments and I hope all our Induction students have taken with them a readiness to act and play their part in truth telling and making reconciliation, *More than a Word*.

Community engagement was a key feature of Term 2 with visits from two schools in our neighbourhood. It was such a positive and rewarding experience to have students, staff and family from Yakanarra Community School and Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School visit us this term. Our students and staff facilitated school tours, Welcome to Country, On Country Learning and much more. The staff, students and families who visited from these schools reported having a great time. The Yiramalay staff and I are extremely proud of our students for the way they conducted themselves as teachers, leaders and ambassadors for this outstanding school. The secret is out, as one of the visiting staff remarked to me, and we plan to continue our relationships with these communities and develop further relationships in and around the Kimberley.

It was fitting that such an action-packed term finished with an action-packed week. The staff and students who attended the Kimberley Cup are once again doing themselves and the school proud. There were so many excellent individual and team efforts as well as displays of fairness, teamwork, perseverance and determination. Congratulations to Year 10 student Devan Wunungmurra who won Most Valuable Player for the mixed basketball competition, also the boys football team and the mixed basketball team on their Grand Final wins. A huge thank you to the coaches and staff on organising and facilitating such a fun and action-packed week for the students.

Matt Watson, Principal



Images from Term 2

A Skutta Term

Working and living at Yiramalay in Term 2 has reminded me of the many opportunities for growth that our students have taken advantage of while in the program. Safe learning and living spaces, caring for each other as a community with the support of family members and the Wesley community make our students feel valued and respected. Watching students grow and their families proudly looking on, shows how far the program has come in its long journey over the past 11 years, bringing with it change through education.

There were many highlights over the term. The ones that stand out are when our Yiramalay students were given the opportunity to share their knowledge of the country and culture with visitors. Yiramalay Induction 45 and 46 students joined us in the Kimberley, and visits from two community schools added excitement into the day to day life of the school. Our Yiramalay students are very proud of their Studio School and love any opportunity to showcase it to others. Thank you all the staff, teachers, mentors, and all our students for their effort and commitment last term - another skutta term!

Kaylene Marr, Yiramalay Cultural and Community Advisor

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's first people and pay our respects to their elders both past and present as owners of this land where we stand.

Broome Academic Camp

From 18 - 21 May the Yiramalay students went to Broome for a school trip. The SYLF class visited the radio stations as part of our Cert II. We went to ABC Kimberley, PAKAM, and Goolari Media radio stations. We had some fun doing interviews and making 'stings' which are little station IDs. We also went on a tour of the Dinosaur Coast at Gantheaume Point early one morning. We had the chance to do some shopping and played laser tag, and it was all fun! On Friday we left Broome to come back to Yiramalay. It was good to try something new!

Jirrwirliny Jeffries, Year 11

In Week 5 of Term 2, Yiramalay went to Broome for four days for a school camp to check out different radio stations. First up we went to ABC Kimberley and interviewed each other. It was embarrassing to listen your voice after we'd finished recording, but it was funny as well! We went to Goolari Media for a tour, it looks small from the outside but its big on the inside. We went into the recording booth and the boys did a recording, 'We're Yiramalay Wesley Studio School and you're listening to Goolari Media 99.7FM.' The final radio station we visited was PAKAM (Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media). They talked to us about regional media, the NITV website, and showed us some videos, including a short claymation film 'Whirlpool' set up on the Dampier Peninsula, from the series, *Our Stories*.

We also had the opportunity to do other stuff like shopping, while others went fishing and swimming at Coconut Wells. One afternoon we went to Laser Tag where everyone joined in and had fun. We played team 'Deathmatch' where two teams of six ran around and shot at each other for 15 minutes.

On Friday, Brent tried to wake all the boys to go to a morning Clontarf footy training at 6:00am with St Mary's College, but only Wayne and myself woke up to go. When we got there, they had two teams on the field playing a little scratch match, so Wayne, Brent and myself put on guernseys and hopped onto the field and played. It was fun playing footy after not playing for a bit. I kicked a goal and was very excited. We also visited the Aquaculture Facility at TAFE where they breed fish; the main fish they breed is barramundi. I didn't realise how small the barras start off, and they get so big and move fast.

This trip was very good, and I wouldn't mind having another one just like this one!

Rohan Watts, Year 12



Images from Broome Academic Camp

Reconciliation Week celebrations

Last term, from May 27 - June 3 we celebrated Reconciliation Week. The theme for 2021 was *More than a word, Reconciliation Takes Action*. To me, this means an opportunity to get to know the Melbourne kids, mentors and teachers better.

During the week we watched movies, videos and looked at posters around social media. I saw posters, social media posts and *Mabo* the movie. This tells the story of a man who fought for his native title and land rights.

Rena spoke to us about Reconciliation Week and the other students and I talked about making a special dinner, painting murals and going out on country for a day trip. We went swimming at the nearby Quarry, it was cold and enjoyable. I felt excited to share my Reconciliation experience with the Melbourne kids and their mentors and teachers.

Kyle Wurramara, Year 11



Indigenous football guernsey designs by Yiramalay students

Community school visits

In early June, the Studio School welcomed students, families and high school teacher, Emma, from the Yakanarra Community School. They visited Yiramalay to understand what our Studio School can offer their community. They were particularly excited about the holistic approach to learning, industry preparation and the ongoing support of students and alumni that we provide. The Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School were next to visit and were welcomed in late June. The children, their families and staff had a great time horse riding, screen printing t-shirts and visiting some significant sites on Bunuba country. Visits like this connect remote communities to school networks and learning opportunities, and create better outcomes for our young people.

Toby Tracy, Community Engagement Officer



Images of community school visits

Football talent

On Saturday June 5, a group of nine Yiramalay boys travelled over to Broome to compete in the U19s Kimberley Colts Football Championship. Our students participated with the Central Kimberley team, composed of players from all over the Fitzroy Valley. The event was organised by the Claremont Football Club in partnership with Garnduwa and involved players from the three football leagues across the Kimberley. The event was an amazing opportunity for our students to network, communicate and interact with fellow aspiring footballers in a positive and healthy environment. The carnival was also an opportunity to showcase their football talents in front of WAFL recruiters.

Year 12 student, Rohan Watts was recognised by Claremont representatives and the Central Kimberley coaching group as the best player from the Central Kimberley team. Three of our students, Rohan Watts, Elizah Dingo and Joharn Oscar were selected to represent the Kimberley in the U17s team and will travel to Dampier in September to compete against the U17s Pilbara team. Rohan was also identified as a top five player at the carnival and was selected to travel to Perth to participate in the Kimberley Spirit Program.

Brent Simons, Student Wellbeing coordinator



Images from Kimberley Colts Football Championship

Football trip to Broome

In the middle of the Term 2, some of the Yiramalay boys got picked to play for Central Kimberley Football League with Garnduwa. It was a good, short trip with just the boys. We also met new people who were our teammates and some of the Garnduwa staff. We camped at Broome Gateway in tents.

My favourite part of the camp was playing football, even though we lost all our games. Rohan was selected to play in the last game because he played so well in our games. He received an award after the game. After that we went back to the Broome Gateway and went to sleep. Next morning, we woke up at 6.50am, took a shower, packed the swags away, put the tents down and put them away and then hopped in the cars with our bags and were on the road back to Yiramalay. It was a great football trip with the boys.

Wayne Watts, Year 11

Earlier this term, my friends and I went to Broome for a footy carnival. Everyone in the Kimberley comes together for the day and plays a few games. It was fun and we all had a great time. After that event we went for a drive around the town, went to the shops and to Town Beach where we stayed for a few hours and had lunch. We said our goodbyes to the other boys, and then went back to Yiramalay.

Desmond James, Year 11

A wonderful evening of two-way learning

One evening, a small group of students and staff were sitting on the grass outside the dining room eating dessert. As more and more people joined them, I was intrigued to see that they were all enjoying (along with pudding) a lunar eclipse of a rare super blood moon. As luck would have it, this moonlit night was also when the Bunuba Rangers had joined us for dinner and were offering an after-dinner Cane Toad Roundup (I have had to stop calling it a Rodeo as the local students are way too quick to joyously draw comparisons to my horse riding skills).

Once the kitchen crew had finished their duty, we walked up to the bore area with torches, gloves and garbage bags. There was a false start after our highly skittish participants enthusiastically disclosed that some unexpected splashes sounded very like the thrashing of a crocodile. However, we regrouped, took some deep breaths and were on our way again, (although anyone without a torch seemed to be much more obsessed with shadows, now).

Soon everyone was jumping around bagging up feral toady intruders, learning how they varied from local varieties, the most humane way to dispose of them (into a designated Toad Freezer behind the Gurranda classroom) and the sophisticated way our rangers 'taught' wildlife that cane toads make you sick if you eat them (frog leg sausages, no less). It was a wonderful evening of two-way learning, while bonding on Bunuba country (that still gives me the giggles).

Kym Adams, Induction 46 Leader

Induction 46 student blog

It one of those days that you have to appreciate. We spent all morning watching the movie Putuparri and the Rainmakers. We saw Putuparri develop as a young man surrounded by his elders who take him to their country. He hits rock bottom through alcoholism and then finds himself again through the creation of the artwork as part of his clan's native title claim (see Ngurrara Canvas).

Just an average day, but it was a really good average day that left us looking forward to our adventures to come.

Ella Brown, Induction 46

By 10.00am we were packed and on the road heading towards Fitzroy Crossing for the first time on this Induction. The trip was basically to the local IGA as pretty well everything else is shut on a Sunday. Fitzroy Crossing is far smaller than we expected. It had a few shops, houses and a footy oval. We ate our lunch there while a swarm of hawks circled above. Some kids fed them by throwing bread and meat scraps into the air for the hawks to dive onto mid-flight.

Later, we visited the Fitzroy River and walked across an old bridge, which has now been replaced as it is impassable during every wet season. Here a local Bunuba girl, Letisha, who had joined us for the day, told us about the freshwater mangrove leaf bush medicine which helps with painful catfish spikes. Handy.

Emily Eger and Niamh Craven, Induction 46

Today, we all wrote questions about Aboriginal things on sticky notes and Kym Oakley (a new teacher at Yiramalay, a Malgana woman from Gathaagudu in Shark Bay, WA, who is on Induction 46 with us) answered them 'You Can't Ask That' style. She answered as many questions as she could and promised to follow up any tricky ones with our Traditional Owners, who couldn't be with us today. We asked questions about Aboriginal law, remote communities and how spirits function in daily life.

In the afternoon, Kym found four recipes for us with traditional bush tucker spices like Lemon Myrtle and Cinnamon Myrtle. We cooked scones, cakes, biscuits and damper and had a great afternoon tea.

James Dutton and Will Hardy, Induction 46

Today we learnt about mnemonic memory tricks. Indigenous people used them to remember large amounts of information over long periods of time. We also played Friends Bingo which helped us build new connections with people that we didn't really know. After lunch, we headed down to the Big Quarry to go jump of some cliffs into this man-made reservoir. On the way back to Yiramalay we stopped to get some boab nuts, which was a new experience for most of us. After some free time to get changed and washed up, we had dinner which was carried sausage, lasagne, chips and rice before finishing with some chocolate cake as dessert as we watched a blood moon lunar eclipse pass by.

As our after-dinner activity, we went cane toad hunting with the local Bunuba Rangers around the campus as cane toads kill a lot of the local species with the toxin that is contained within their skin. After catching several bags of cane toads, we headed back to the dorms to finish the night with some free time.

Marcus Wood and Matthew Zhang, Induction 46

**The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is committed to keeping children safe.
Trained teachers deliver the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum to all students.**



Induction 46 images

Important Dates 2021

Thu 29 July

Term 3 commences Kimberley

Fri 17 Sept

Term 3 ends Kimberley and Melbourne