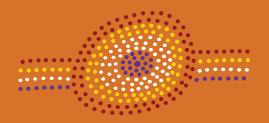


# Annual Report 2017



### YIRAMALAY / WESLEY STUDIO SCHOOL

Fairfield – Leopold Road, Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia



## Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Annual Report 2017

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### Governance





I look forward to seeing your many future accomplishments as the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School continues to grow



The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is Registered School No 1489 in Western Australia. The Wesley College Council is the governing body of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School and Wesley College is the Approved Authority for Federal Government Funding.

It is with deep regret that I announce my resignation from the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee, effective 9 June 2017. In my new position as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, I am not able to devote the necessary time and attention to the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee, though I will remain on the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Foundation Committee.

Please know that I have thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to serve with you all to further the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School. I am proud of our collective achievements and the significant progress the initiative has made toward improving the education and opportunities for Aboriginal students. I am particularly honoured to have served as Chair of this organisation, and I am truly grateful for the extensive assistance each of you offered. As a board and as individuals, you are all tremendously talented, and I feel lucky to have volunteered by your side these past six years.

I have enjoyed my time serving on the Steering Committee and am grateful for the experience. I will miss the interaction with my fellow board members and the community. Thank you so much for your understanding. I congratulate Estelle Bowman on her appointment as the incoming Chair and wish her well.

I look forward to seeing your many future accomplishments as the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School continues to grow.

June Oscar AO Chair Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee (until June 2017)

2

I have been associated with Wesley College as an external management consultant, advisor and supporter for many years and have been very fortunate to visit the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School in the Kimberley on a number of occasions.

I have followed the School's evolution from inception to the vibrant community it has become with great interest. Since being appointed the Chair of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee last October, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand milestone achievements in the ongoing development of infrastructure at the site at Leopold Downs, which support the School. More importantly though, is the opportunity to see the growth of staff and students as they participate in the program. Particularly pleasing is seeing the increasing numbers of students progressing through to Year 12 graduation.

It is the determination and resilience of staff and students alike which enable the School to continue to flourish. I hope to be able to make a positive contribution to the future growth and ongoing sustainability of the School.

#### Estelle Bowman Chair Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee (from October 2017)



### Studio School Steering Committee



#### Overview

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) was established in 2011 under the *Studio School Agreement* between Wesley College, Bunuba Cattle Company, Bunuba Aboriginal Corporation and Bunuba Inc.

The function of the Steering Committee is to assist the partnership between Wesley College and the Bunuba community to fulfill the purposes of the Studio School in offering full-time study to students in Years 10, 11 and 12, industry learning, training opportunities and academic study towards accredited Year 12 qualifications for Aboriginal students from the Northern Territory, the Pilbara and Kimberley region in Northern Australia and students from Wesley College in Melbourne.

The Steering Committee is comprised of three persons with voting rights appointed by Wesley College and three persons with voting rights and their nominated alternate members appointed by the Bunuba people.

The Steering Committee meets four times per year. Steering Committee members and attendance at meetings are listed in the following table.

#### Meetings

Steering Committee Members	Meetings		
	Meetings attended	Meetings eligible to attend	
Voting members Bunuba			
June Oscar, Chair, Bunuba Cattle Company and Bunuba elder Kaylene Marr, nominated alternate member, Bunuba elder and traditional owner Yiramalay – 4 meetings	4	4	
Anthony Aiken, member, Bunuba elder – 1 meeting Joe Ross, nominated alternate member, Bunuba elder – 1 meeting	2	2	
Mary Aiken, Chair, Bunuba Inc and Bunuba elder	3	4	
Waylon Marr, Bunuba elder	1	3	
Voting members Wesley College			
Dr Helen Drennen, Principal	4	4	
Marianne Stillwell, President, Wesley College Council	4	4	
Wendy Lasica, Member, Wesley College Council	4	4	
Non-voting members Wesley College			
Estelle Bowman, Independent Consultant (New Chair)	1	1	
Ned McCord, Executive Director, Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School	4	4	
Cameron Moroney, Chief Financial Officer and Business Director, Wesley College	4	4	

#### Profiles





June Oscar is Chief Executive Officer of Marninwarntikura Wormen's Resource Centre and a proud Bunuba woman from the remote town of Fitzroy Crossing. She is a Bunuba language speaker and is considered one of the most outstanding Aboriginal leaders in the Fitzroy Valley, and across Australia. She is a strong advocate and activist for Indigenous Australian languages, social justice, women's issues, and foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Her courage and determination to address the most complex and sensitive issues affecting the lives of Aboriginal Australians is inspirational. In 2012 June was appointed as an Ambassador for Children and Young People by the Western Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People, Michelle Scott. June is a Chief Investigator on the Lilliwan Project. In June 2013 she was awarded an Order of Australia (AO). June was the winner of the Westpac and Financial Review 100 Women of Influence 2013 for Social Enterprise and Not for Profit Category. In 2014 June was awarded the Menzies School of Health Research Medallion for her work with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. In 2015 June was asked to be an Ambassador for the National Organisation for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. In 2016 June was awarded the Desmond Tutu Fellowship from the Global Reconciliation Foundation and in February 2017 she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Edith Cowen University.



Kaylene Marr was born in Derby and grew up in Fitzroy Crossing and Yiramalay on Leopold Downs Station on Bunuba country. She is a traditional owner of the land and alternate Bunuba representative on the Steering Committee. Mother to three children, Kaylene works at Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School as a cultural mentor and lives and works with the students in both Melbourne and Yiramalay. Her connection to the land inspires her artwork and she has been an artist since she was a small child. She is also an actor who has featured in several major movies. Kaylene is passionate about preserving the language and culture of the Bunuba people while embracing white fella education to improve outcomes for Indigenous people.



Anthony completed his Certificate IV as a Calm Ranger and is based in Fitzroy Crossing. He is currently working for Fortescue Metals Group and prior to this worked as the Manager of Geikle Gorge National Park. Through his training, Anthony has a good understanding of environmental issues and Aboriginal culture. Anthony is a Director of the Bunuba Cattle Company, the Secretary of the Bunuba Aboriginal Corporation and an alternate Bunuba representative on the Steering Committee of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School.



Helen Drennen

Helen was born and raised in Melbourne and has been Principal of Wesley College since 2003. She is the first female to have been appointed to this role since the College opened in 1866. She co-founded the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School with Bunuba partners Joe Ross and June Oscar, and Executive Director Ned McCord. Her career spans state, national and international education, and she has taught in both Government and Independent school sectors in Australia and international Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), and then IB Director for the Asia Pacific region. She is currently a member of the Council of Monash University in Melbourne, and se Tustee of the Shrine of Remembrance in Victoria. In 2010, Helen was made a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators (FACE) and a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators (FACE) in 2011. In 2016 she was recognised in the Australia Day Honours list as a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.



Mary Aiken is a Bunuba woman who was born and raised in Fitzroy Crossing. Mary completed her schooling in Fitzroy Crossing and Derby and later worked for the Department of Community Services, Aboriginal Legal Commission and Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Commission. In 1999 Mary and her husband Bill took on the operation of Darngku Heritage Cruises, which provides guided tours through Geikie Gorge. Mary is a board member of the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council and also works with TRACKS and FitzCam on the sustainability and conservation of the Fitzroy River.



Marianne Stillwell is the current President of the Wesley College Council, and has been a member since 2006. She is also Chair of the Strategy Ethics, Compliance and Governance, and Remuneration Committees. In her professional career, Marianne spent 12 years in finance management roles with Ford Credit Australia Limited, and has 10 years of secondary teaching experience in Catholic and Independent schools. Marianne is currently Executive Director of the Stillwell Family Council and a Director of Stillwell Motor Group, a family company specialising in prestige motor which ertail. She is also Deputy Chair of the Board of Management for Independent Schools Victoria. Marianne's daughter is a current student at Wesley College, with her two sons completing their education at Wesley in 2017 and 2014, respectively.



Estelle's expertise spans the public, private and academic sectors in Australia and overseas. She has held senior positions in the Federal Public Service in Canberra, in the UK Cabinet Office in the Prime Minister's Efficiency Unit and on the faculty of a leading business school. Estelle is a Chartered Occupational Psychologist (UK) and Associate Fellow of the British Psychologista Society. She is also a member of the Association of Business Psychologists and a Chartered Member of the Institute of Personnel and Development. Estelle is an associate of Creative Management Associates in the UK and a virtual team member of Pentacle, the Virtual Business School. Estelle is a graduate of Adelaide University and the Canberra CAE (now Canberra University).



Joe Ross is a member of the Bunuba people who has held a range of leadership positions, including Director of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre, Director of the Enterprise Career Education Foundation, and National Indigenous English Literacy and Numeracy Strategy Ambassador. He has been active in developing leadership development programs to provide skills development opportunities for young Indigenous leaders and enable them to contribute to shaping the future of their communities and Australia. Joe is the former Chair of the North Australian Land and Water Taskforce and has been prominent in facilitating the development of the National Indigenous Climate Change Project. A graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program, Joe was awarded a Centenary medal for his active role in creating innovative leadership for young Indigenous leaders.



Ned McCord is the Executive Director of the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School. From 2003 to 2012 he was the Director/Business Coordinator of the Bunuba Cattle Company, Leopold Downs and Fairfield Station, and he has extensive experience in the management of broad acre cattle properties across northern Australia and the development of beef cattle herds suitable for the live export market. He is a former non-executive director of Livecorp and a member of the Live Export Research and Development Advisory Committee. Ned has worked collaboratively with Aboriginal pastoralists in both the Northern Territory and the Kimberley. He was a member of the Governing Council and Chair of Kimberley Training Institute from 2003 until 2012 and the Teachers Registration Board of Western Australia recently granted Ned Limited Teacher registration.



Wendy joined the Wesley College Council in mid-2011. She is an award-winning theatre producer, has been a director and board member of Next Wave Festival, chaired funding panels for Arts Victoria, been general manager for Stonnington Symphony, written a how-to book for emerging artists and managed a playwrights' award at the State Library. Wendy has also worked extensively in New York. She holds a masters in Urban Planning and operates a niche practice working at the intersection of cities and culture. Wendy's son currently attends the College and her daughter is a graduate of Wesley.



Cameron Moroney joined Wesley College early in 2010 as the Business Director and Chief Financial Officer. Cameron has held senior executive leadership positions at Chief Information Officer level across multi-site complex businesses in areas including education (RMIT University), healthcare (Epworth HealthCare), telecommunications (Ericsson) and heavy industrial (BHP Billiton). His executive responsibilities have encompassed strategy/business planning, market/business development, customer service delivery and support, financial and performance management, facilities management, information systems, supply/major contract negotiation, insurance and risk management.

### Principal's Overview





On many occasions throughout 2017, learning for students, staff and families was expanded across new horizons and with exciting new opportunities at Yiramalay

#### Learning in an Expanded World

On many occasions throughout 2017, learning for students, staff and families was expanded across new horizons and with exciting new opportunities at Yiramalay.

In June, Yiramalay students and staff participated for the first time in the Gibb River Road Bike Challenge, a 600 km ride from Derby to El Questro, organised by the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Eight Yiramalay students and four staff members successfully completed the challenge and benefitted enormously from the exceptional opportunity to strengthen relationships, to give back to the community, and to develop teamwork, individual fitness and personal resilience.

Another example was the visit in August of the Strelley Community School. The Strelley Community School, in the Warralong community, is located 160 km south-east of Port Hedland and commenced operation in 1976. We were proud to host the oldest, continually operational independent Aboriginal Community School in Australia, and will be very pleased to continue the relationship into the future. The visit included a school tour, Welcome to Country, interschool sports, and the largest round of musical chairs ever seen!

The Kimberley Cup also expanded learning for many of our students in 2017. Sixty Yiramalay students formed nine teams and competed in basketball, netball, soccer and football. The Yiramalay football team, including some Melbourne Induction students, and students from Bidyadanga and Looma, won the Kimberley Cup Football final. Watching students and community members get together to play, laugh, socialise and build relationships in the spirit of competition was a joy to witness. The Kimberley Cup also presented a wonderful opportunity for staff and mentors to build and strengthen connections with community members, and network with other schools in the Kimberley.

The climax of the year for families and staff was the graduation of five Year 12 Yiramalay students at Speech Night at the Melbourne Town Hall. They were Torey Brooking,

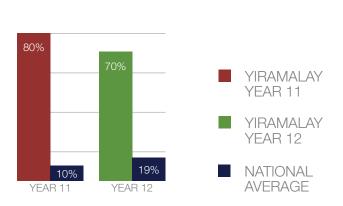
Tonchi McIntosh, Gino Dempsey, Darren Kirkman and Sunnae Bieundurry. To see the pride of students, staff and families from across Australia, and our wider communities on that night made everything worthwhile. The addition of these new graduates brings the total number since the school's inception to 32.

#### Impact and change

Since October 2010, Yiramalay student enrolment has grown tenfold. Stories of growth and success for both students and staff abound and key metrics measuring impact are now regularly reported across school retention rates, pathways to employment and further education, and in areas of the development of strong Indigenous culture and leadership skills.

#### School Retention Rates

Retention of students at Yiramalay is significantly higher than the national average for Aboriginal students – 70% of students at Yiramalay have completed Year 12 (national average 19%) and 80% of students at Yiramalay have completed Year 11 (national average 10%).

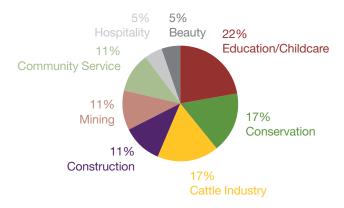


Yiramalay staff and students visiting 'The Quarry'



### Pathways to Employment and Further Education

Nearly 75% of all Yiramalay students enrolled since 2010 are now employed or are continuing their education in further study. Industries of employment include:



### Developing Strong Indigenous Culture and Leadership Skills

The stories of Yiramalay graduates are testament to their growth in self-confidence, their developing understanding of themselves, of their identity and the needs of their communities in remote and rural Australia.

At the heart of any great school are exceptional staff, both teaching and support staff, and here Yiramalay is blessed. I would like to thank Executive Director, Ned McCord, and his leadership team including Acting Yiramalay Deputy Director, Felicity Pearson, Senior Mentor and Traditional Owner, Kaylene Marr, Program Coordinator – Melbourne, Matt Watson, the teachers, cultural and residential mentors, and all the staff, families and friends who have played a part in our growth in 2017.

Of crucial importance to the success of Yiramalay are the Aboriginal staff who are pivotal to the program. Their growth in confidence, skill and steadfastness in 2017 was an inspiration to us all. It is very encouraging and satisfying to know that Yiramalay is improving the lives and prospects of our children and our communities and our appreciation goes to everyone who is playing a part.

#### Helen Drennen Principal



### Executive Director's Report





Throughout the year, Yiramalay students had the opportunity to participate in many different educational programs, which has helped students build their selfesteem, resilience and health

The 2017 year began in the Kimberley with a long, big, wet season like the old days, filling all the rivers, creeks and water holes. This has all added to the uniqueness of Yiramalay, and the beauty of the incredible location, landscape and environment of the Kimberley; creating the opportunity for many memorable adventures. Though for Yiramalay the seasons also bring the logistical challenges of living and working in the Northern Australian outback. One of the first lessons all students and staff learn is how to work with the environment and to always respect the ways of the land and its people. This is also very important on cultural days; when out on country students do not take any food, just water. If they want lunch they must get it from the bush. In a year like 2017, there are plenty of bush foods so no one goes hungry. The local Aboriginal students lead the way as they catch fish, snakes, goanna, bush turkey and at times gather some of the bush fruits available. It is a great Kimberley learning experience and brings out the best in all.

Induction programs commenced in February with Induction 26, the first of six very successful Inductions Programs run during 2017. All students and staff enjoyed themselves and experienced many new things whilst at Yiramalay, learning about Aboriginal culture and life in the Kimberley.

Throughout the year Yiramalay students had the opportunity to participate in many different educational programs, which has helped students build their self-esteem, resilience and health. All programs at Yiramalay are part of the Senior Years Learning Framework, which is made up of three key learning circles: Personal development and Cross cultural learning, Industry learning, and Academic (Advanced and Standard levels) learning.

The Youth program – 'Act-Belong-Commit Youth Program' – was delivered by Theatre Kimberley. This program delivers high-quality visual theatre experiences with educational, social wellbeing, self-esteem and mental health outcomes. Students learn many new life skills; part of the program is delivered by Sandfly Circus, so students learn how to juggle, dance and do backflips. At the end of the week students put on a performance under lights at Yiramalay.

Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School also had eight students and three staff participating in the Gibb River Road Bike

Challenge. Both staff and students were very busy during the first part of Term 2, training and preparing for the Gibb River Challenge, which also included preparing blogs and fundraising. Our whole-school approach was well supported by both the Wesley and Bunuba communities. Students taking hospitality classes at Yiramalay made cupcakes and other food items to sell in Fitzroy Crossing during the Saturday football competition and money was collected from Darngku tour guides at Geikie Gorge. With help from Wesley College's Marketing team, we set up an electronic direct mail donation campaign and blog. The theme of this year's Gibb Bike Challenge was to raise awareness of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The students at Yiramalay have also selected Youth Suicide as another area for raising awareness. Both topics have been part of classroom discussions. Yiramalay's participation in this challenge not only supported a vital cause, but provided an experiential educational opportunity to develop our students' valuable skills including team work, planning, resilience, understanding bike mechanics and maintenance, fitness, health and well-being. The Yiramalay team were the only Indigenous team participating this year and we were the first ever Indigenous team to complete the challenge.

Yiramalay students excelled this year during Reconciliation Week as leaders demonstrating organisation, communication and public speaking skills and participated in many events. Some of the events students attended and spoke at included the Reconciliation breakfast and fundraiser at Glen Waverley, Reconciliation Assemblies across the College campuses and, to end the week, Yiramalay students attended the Monash Council Reconciliation Event, The Long Walk and Dreamtime at the MCG, as well as the Australian Defence Force Reconciliation event at Simpson Army Barracks. At the Glen Waverley Senior School assembly two Yiramalay boys performed with the Soul Band and brought the house down with their rap pieces as part of the Soul Band's rendition of the Paul Kelly classic 'Dumb Things'. The National theme for 2017 National Reconciliation week was 'Let's Take the next Steps'. Wesley College, through the unique partnership with the Bunuba people and the establishment of the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School, is doing just that and should be proud. This year students represented their people, families,

Yiramalay Exectutive Director Ned McCord

communities and the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School with confidence, humbleness and pride, they spoke from the heart of their own personal stories and struggles growing up as an Aboriginal person.

Kimberley Cup 2017 is the biggest week-long sporting event in the Kimberley, where schools from across the region come together in Broome to compete in a range of sports, including basketball, volleyball, netball, indoor soccer, touch footy, mixed netball and AFL football. The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School had nine teams competing, including six basketball, one netball, one indoor soccer and one AFL team, with a total of 60 students and 10 staff attending the event. This unique event offers students an informal opportunity to get together to play, laugh and socialise in a healthy environment with their peers, staff and the local community. For staff, it is not only an occasion to share experiences and build rapport with Yiramalay students and each other, but it also presents an opportunity to build relationships with local community members, and network with other schools in the Kimberley. The competition and the excitement during the games was stronger than ever, and of course the ultimate highlight was our AFL team combining with Bidyadanga and Looma to win the Grand Final.

Whilst at the Kimberly Cup Sports carnival, the Indigenous Affairs Standing Committee met the Yiramalay team. They were in the Kimberley to hold hearing sessions and received evidence on Indigenous education in the region. The committee met briefly with many of our students and staff, as they watched Yiramalay win the mixed basketball semifinal. The committee is chaired by Ms Melissa Price MP and both she and Deputy Chair Hon Warren Snowdon MP were in attendance. The meeting provided a great opportunity for students and staff to inform the committee about the uniqueness of Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School.

Other highlights during 2017 include:

- Two Yiramalay students received a scholarship to attend the Work Experience in Government (WEX) program in Canberra. A total of 55 Indigenous students from around Australia were selected to participate in WEX. The program was based in Canberra and supported Year 11 and 12 Indigenous students in gaining an understanding of job opportunities and career pathways within the government sector. The program was also an opportunity to help these students develop their leadership skills and abilities.
- DukeEngage Project was delivered during Term 2 by Peter Sun (OW2015), with fellow student Sherry Feng. Both are currently studying at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, USA. Throughout Term 2, students had an opportunity to engage in financial literacy course to help them develop a fundamental skillset for personal finance. The project was divided into two joint programs: a financial empowerment course offered to students and mentors with individual financial coaching, and an entrepreneurship program for students to acquire hands-on experience

of business operations. Both Peter and Sherry did a fantastic job and the Yiramalay community thank them for the role they played in supporting and helping the students and mentors better understand finance and business.

- Strelley Community School students came for a day visit in August. Students and staff gave them a school tour, Bunuba students welcomed them to their country, and there was plenty of action with some interschool sports, and the largest round of musical chairs I have ever seen. The Strelley Community School commenced operation in 1976 and is the oldest continually operational Independent Aboriginal Community School in Australia. The school is in the Warralong community, located 160 km south-east of Port Hedland.
- The Friends of Yiramalay 2017 tour, led by Bunuba Elder Joe Ross, arrived for an overnight stay on 13 August. They were present for Induction 29 Graduation and the Yiramalay, 'Who's Got Talent' night. There were 19 participants on the Tour this year. All have stated in feedback that it was a great learning experience into life in the Kimberley and the Aboriginal culture and they all went home with a better understanding of some of the challenges that people face in Northern Australia.

Students involved in the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School meet many new people who provide them with various learning opportunities and life skills as they strive towards bettering themselves through education. This also creates a forward momentum for improvement in areas of cultural understanding, economic participation, social interaction and health and welfare. The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School plays a central role in learning for both communities by adding to the richness around the importance of culture, language and community. This, in time, brings about connectedness and engagement with the wider world.

We can all learn by being part of the story, and supporting community partnerships like the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School, that use education as a pathway.

Ned McCord Executive Director



Food preparation during a hospitality class

## Curriculum





... designed for students interested in moving directly into work or further education



### Senior Years Learning Framework

In 2017, three students graduated from the Senior Years Learning Framework (SYLF) Standard Level, whilst another two students graduated from the Advanced Level.

The Advanced Level course has been designed for students interested in pathways into further vocational education and university. To complete the SYLF Advanced Level, students are required to participate in Industry Learning and a structured work placement, part-time apprenticeship, traineeship or part-time job and study English with at least three other senior secondary academic subjects from at least two of the following domains:

- English and Languages English is a compulsory subject and various languages can be studied
- Humanities and Social Sciences
  (History, Legal Studies)
- Mathematics, Science or Technology (Chemistry, Physics)
- Creative Arts (Drama, Music)

The Standard Level course has an emphasis on the development of literacy, numeracy and Information Communications and Technology (ICT) literacy skills such as academic learning. This course has been designed for students interested in moving directly into work or further vocational education at the completion of secondary school.

#### Industry Learning

Industry Learning in the SYLF is practical, work-related learning through TAFE, a work placement or part-time work (100 days in duration). The Industry Learning program involves a process of thinking about and researching work and career opportunities.

Students set short and long term goals for Industry Learning. They reflect on these goals and the progress they make towards achieving them through experience in the workplace. Understanding and developing the following employability skills was the organising framework for Industry Learning:

- communication
- teamwork
- problem solving
- enterprise and initiative
- planning and organising
- self-management
- learning
- technology

Students were involved in the following Industry Learning:

- First aid training
- ABB Australia Pty Limited electrical engineering industry
- CERT I in GATE by North Regional TAFE
- education student support in class
- office administration at Wesley College
- Residential Indigenous Science Experience (RISE), Melbourne University
- cattle station work at Leopold Downs Station
- food preparation at Wesley College, Glen Waverley, Yiramalay and at FareShare Kitchen Abbotsford
- horticulture at Wesley College, with Wesley College
  Grounds Team
- tourism through a number of Yiramalay community events.

#### Personal Development through Community Activity

In 2017 students worked on their Personal Development through Community Activity in community-based projects. These projects included a wide variety of topics such as Living on the land, Aboriginal art, and Traditional hunting and food. These activities were linked to academic pursuits whilst advancing students in personal development skills, namely:

• self confidence





- leadership
- teamwork
- cultural awareness.

The Personal Development through Community Activity program involves goal setting, planning, reflection and community service. In 2017, the students moved outside the Yiramalay community and spent time with Year 4 students at Wesley College in Melbourne. The assessment piece for this project included research, planning, showing initiative, experience and reflection on the following aspects:

- challenges and problems involved in acting in the community
- the range of socio-cultural experiences the student has in the community
- the nature and structure of the society in which the student lives
- the way the student responds to social-cultural and interpersonal experience in the community
- the nature and forces at work in being a member of a team and in contributing to the leadership of a team
- how the responses of the student change
  and develop
- what the student learns about society, other people and themselves from the community involvement activity.

#### Academic Learning

The academic learning component in the Standard Level course is incorporated in a pre-vocational and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificate that provides training for employment in a range of industries and/or further study. The course is nationally accredited as a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways and focuses on the development of employability skills, literacy, numeracy and ICT literacy skills. This certificate is flexible and it can be adapted to local/regional requirements and opportunities.

Students in Year 10 were offered Certificate I in GATE, community projects and travelled to Melbourne during Terms 3 and 4 to undergo transition into the SYLF.

#### Dean Thomson Teaching and Learning Coordinator

#### Matt Watson Program Coordinator (Melbourne)





The Gibb Challenge is a 660 km bike ride completed over five days on dirt roads through rugged terrain in the Kimberley. The Challenge has run for the past 11 years, and for the past three has raised funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and other charities of the riders' choosing. In 2017, Yiramalay was the only Indigenous team that participated, and more importantly, was the first Indigenous team ever to complete the challenge.

Participating students demonstrated legendary levels of grit, discovered inner strength and picked up life skills along the way. Students gained the respect and admiration of their teammates, competitors and locals, who pledged to support students with work experience and apprenticeships. The students were also capably supported by four staff members. Friends, families and supporters generously donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and to the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Foundation. Due to the success of the Challenge, the school will be nominating for 2018, and intend to make it an annual event on the Yiramalay calendar. In addition to blitzing the Gibb Challenge last year, students at Yiramalay participated in the Kimberley Cup for the third year in a row. The Kimberley Cup is a week-long sporting event where schools from across the region come together to compete in a range of sports in Broome. Nine teams competed and a total of 60 students and 10 staff from Yiramalay attended the event.

This special experience is one that our students look forward to – an opportunity to relax and socialise with their peers and the wider community. It is an occasion for students to build relationships with fellow students and staff at the school, as well as engage with other schools and local community groups in the Kimberley. The competition is in equal parts fierce and friendly, and culminated with our AFL team (together with Bidyadanga and Looma) winning the Grand Final – the ultimate highlight!

## Registration and Funding

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School was registered by the Department of Education Services in Western Australia in 2010, for Years 11 and 12, for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012. It has subsequently been approved for two further three-year periods, for Years 10, 11 and 12, and is currently registered to 31 December 2018. The re-registration process for the next period will commence in early 2018.

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is reliant on both State Government and Federal Government funding, along with donations and sponsorship funding from philanthropic and other organisations and individuals.

#### State Funding

At the state level, the Western Australian Minister for Education has been very supportive, from the outset in 2010, of this unique model of Studio School, and has supported the provision of the highest level of funding across the full year, including when the students are based in Melbourne.

#### Federal Funding

A Federal Government funding agreement was signed in 2013, providing full funding for students, comprising Recurrent Grant funding, Remote Loading (due to the remote location of the Studio School) and Indigenous Supplementary Assistance. This full funding was received for 2013 and also backdated for 2012. Limited Federal Government funding was previously provided under Special Circumstances provisions of Federal legislation, largely due to early difficulties registering the Studio School within the Federal system, given the uniqueness of the school extending across state borders.

The new needs-based funding model, introduced by the Federal Government in 2014, has significantly improved the amount of funding provided to the Studio School. This model includes a number of new loadings on top of the base student funding (with Indigenous loadings), which are linked to the size of the school, its remote location, and its boarding facilities. This funding has continued annually.

### ABSTUDY Funding

ABSTUDY funding commenced in 2013. This is specific funding for Indigenous students, provided under provisions of the federally-funded Centrelink program. The Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School works closely with families, assisting them to provide the necessary paperwork and information for ABSTUDY to be approved for their child. Currently, ABSTUDY funding is received for approximately two-thirds of the students in the program.

Program Coordinator Matt Watson with Yiramalay students

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## State and Commonwealth Reporting Requirements



#### 2017 Overview

#### Academic Programs

	Year Level	Number of Students	Graduated
Senior Years Learning Framework – Advanced Level	Year 12	2	December 2017
Senior Years Learning Framework – Standard Level	Year 12	3	December 2017
Senior Years Learning Framework – Advanced Level	Year 11	2	Ongoing
Senior Years Learning Framework – Standard Level	Year 11	23	Ongoing
Year 10/Pre-Senior Years Learning Framework	Year 10	34 (includes new students)	Ongoing

#### Induction Programs

	Wesley Students	Prospective Yiramalay students	Graduated
Induction Program 26 22 February – 15 March	13	12	March 2017
Induction Program 27 27 April – 17 May	20	12	May 2017
Induction Program 28 9 June – 30 June	21	0	June 2017
Induction Program 29 26 July – 16 August	15	10	August 2017
Induction Program 30 23 August – 13 September	22	2	September 2017
Induction Program 31 11 October – 1 November	22	8	November 2017

### Key Student Outcomes

Achievements for 2017:

- Improved school attendance and high level retention of Aboriginal students
- Measurable improvement in student health reduction in smoking and other drug taking, improved sleep, improved physical fitness. A focus on sporting competitions has significantly helped students to set goals and improve their health
- Demonstrated readiness to learn and to engage in two-way learning – the majority of the students acted as leaders for learning on country when Wesley College students from Melbourne participated in Induction Programs
- Demonstrated readiness to teach non-Aboriginal students Indigenous culture – there are many examples, including the willingness of students to help lead Induction days at Yiramalay, and to present

and share their culture with the Year 4 Wesley students in Melbourne and Jewish students at Mount Scopus Memorial College

- More opportunities taken for involvement in the wider community, including the Kimberley Cup, Wesley College interschool sport and the Gibb River Challenge
- New opportunities for experiences in industry, including developing many connections and partnerships with business and higher education facilities in Melbourne such as ABB (work experience placements, technology workshops and guided factory visits) and Swinburne University (Design Futures workshop)

To date the following evidence and outcomes have been documented:

Years 10, 11 and 12 Senior Years Learning Framework Program:

- Mob meetings weekly student and school community gathering (Mob meeting is the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School terminology for assemblies)
- Feedback forms distributed to students regularly
- Parent/student/staff interviews and parents' gatherings held at Yiramalay
- Staff reviews (individual and team) each term

Year 10 Induction Program:

- Feedback evening for each group of students and parents
- Feedback form (and interviews) for staff
- Feedback from Melbourne Induction staff on the impact of the Induction Program on their Melbourne teaching program
- Student completion of 15 competencies in their portfolio

### Reporting

At the end of each Induction Program, students are awarded a Certificate of Completion if they have attended all three weeks of the program, and successfully completed all competencies, as well as having participated in the life of the community, including daily community duties. These certificates also indicate areas of strength for each student.

In accordance with government guidelines, at the end of each term all students receive a written report, which focuses on academic progress, pastoral growth and concerns, as well as recording industry experience. All reports are presented to students and parents/guardians, and are followed up with an opportunity for both students and parents/guardians to discuss the report and progress of the students with Yiramalay teaching and pastoral staff.

Yiramalay students at the Glen Waverley Commencement Service

### Staff Professional Engagement

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is governed and managed by Wesley College Melbourne, and as such, reflects the staff professional engagement ethos of the College. The College attracts, develops and retains excellent staff (both teaching and general staff), and promotes staff engagement through a number of different avenues including internally run programs, attendance at conferences and opportunities for interstate and international professional development.

### Staff Professional Development

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is committed to a working environment that is engaging, motivating and stimulating, and which sustains and enhances the professional quality of its teachers in the three teaching domains of Professional Knowledge, Professional Practice and Professional Engagement. Teaching staff at the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School are offered an extensive array of development opportunities through both the annual program and community partnership activities. The annual program promotes staff development through evidencebased practice, professional growth strategies and building leadership capacity within the school. Our teaching staff have either completed or are working towards their Certificate IV in Training and Assessment; this is an important qualification required in the workplace or education and training sector. Connections and partnerships with universities throughout Australia continue to be made, to ensure staff are provided with the most appropriate options for further education. By ensuring that staff are highly trained, student wellbeing is boosted and a culture of success and quality student outcomes is cultivated. By continuously improving teacher practice, the school hopes to guarantee that students achieve to the very best of their ability in the Academic, Industry and Personal/Social domains.

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School employs and provides ongoing training for many local Aboriginal people. Throughout 2017, Aboriginal people made up the majority of residential staff working in the program, with others being employed as cultural mentors, teachers' aides, administration and general staff. Our residential mentors are offered training to develop their skills and to enhance the work they do to support the growth and development of all students. Training offered includes first aid, mental health first aid, driver training, cultural awareness, positive behaviour support, and support with literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.





## Philanthropic Support

The dynamic and supportive relationship between Wesley College and the Fitzroy Valley community continues to drive the growth and development of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School, demonstrating resolute commitment to the vision of the Studio School and to the promotion of cross-cultural learning across Australia.

#### Yiramalay Foundation

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is a pioneering crosscultural education program supported by the Yiramalay Foundation. The Foundation connects funders, donors and others in our community who share the school's values and vision of bringing about positive change to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and families who participate in the program. Some of our biggest steps towards this mission occurred in 2017. With generous donations from our community, the program supported 60 students, including five Indigenous Year 12 graduates and 10 Indigenous mentors who participated in the program in 2017. Quantitative measurements aside, the funds raised through the Yiramalay Foundation have provided transformational personal experiences for all the Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, mentors, staff and community members who are involved with the program.

In 2017 funding was received for scholarships and special projects including:

- construction of the student residence, to be formally opened on 18 May 2018
- refurbishment of the Community Centre and the existing student residences
- a custom built trailer for on country excursions and Inductions
- the Gibb Challenge, a 660 km team relay event that raises community awareness and money for charity, in which 10 Yiramalay students and four staff participated
- the Kimberley Cup, an annual interschool sports carnival hosted by Broome Senior High School, at which 60 students and 10 staff participated
- Act-Belong-Commit, Theatre Kimberley Youth Program 2017 – Sandfly Circus conducted workshops with Yiramalay students
- Wesley US Basketball tour that saw five Yiramalay students supported by one staff member travel to the US with other Wesley students
- travel and accommodation for parents of Yiramalay students to Speech Night in Melbourne.

Yiramalay Foundation continues to work with corporations, trusts and foundations that have supported the Studio School in the past, while seeking new ones. We are grateful to The Portland House Foundation, The Kimberley Foundation, Fancy Films and Campion Education who have continued their loyal and generous support and, in 2017, we welcomed the support of the Nordia Foundation. The Foundation would also like to acknowledge the support of the Federal Government and the Western Australian government for capital works funding for additional student accommodation and the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia Capital Grant Association (AISWA CGA) who administer the project.

We want to express our deepest thanks to the alumni, parents, and other supporters from both communities and acknowledge the generous contributions of Robert Peck AM (OW1957) and Yvonne Hartnel AM, Marty and Hali Halphen, Joanne Crosby, Carey Lyon, Peter Clark SC (OW1963) and Danuta Clark. Also, the significant support of the Friends of Yiramalay (FoY) and its founding members Romy Moshinsky and Georgie Raik-Allen (OW1987) who facilitate opportunities for community engagement in the program and in 2017 organised the biannual tour for 23 Wesley parents and others to travel to the Kimberley with an overnight stay at the Studio School. The FoY also fundraise to support Year 12 Yiramalay students to attend their formal – an important social event that marks the end of their time at high school.

The Yiramalay Foundation is appreciative of the assistance provided by Geoff Allen (OW1960) and of the guidance and support from the Chair of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Foundation Board, Joe Ross (who has resigned as Chair as of 2018), and its members, Dr Helen Drennen, Ned McCord, Dr June Oscar, Anthony Aiken, Peter Harrison (OW1969) and Cameron Moroney.

Executive Director Ned McCord and Prefect Torey Brooking at the Glen Waverley Commencement Service

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