

Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School

Fairfield – Leopold Road, Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia

Annual Report 2015



Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Annual Report 2015

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Governance





When combined with the power of professional and dedicated staff, we can only admire what has been achieved and what will ultimately come to all students who attend the school

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 the Property Trust of the Uniting Church in Australia is the Approved Authority for Federal Government funding

The 2015 year has seen another year of great development for the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School.

The academic achievements from the Indigenous students continue to amaze us all and it proves the point that, given the right opportunities and environment, students from different backgrounds can all have outcomes academically and can aspire to be whatever they want to be. Similarly the Melbourne students who are part of the program have had life-changing experiences which will shape their lives forever.

Last year I was pleased to report that we had essentially completed the self-study review on the school and we were waiting on the outcome from our independent reviewer, Reece Barrett. I can now advise that Reece completed his review and agreed with the recommendations made and we are now actively implementing those recommendations. This process has been very useful in making sure we capture our learning on what works and what needs to change, so we can offer the very best to all who are part of the school.

It is pleasing to report that we secured \$1.3m in funding from the Federal Government under the Association Independant Schools of Western Australia Grant program to enable us to build new kitchen and dining facilities at Leopold Downs. In addition, we were able to acquire modular housing buildings from the Duingunaya Aboriginal Corporation for \$450,000, which will provide much needed upgraded accommodation for our staff. Both these projects are well on the way to being built and an official opening will be held in mid-2016

The big challenge for us in the short term is ensuring we have adequate telecommunications to enable our education programs to be delivered in the best possible way. Some initial steps in this regard were taken though increased satellite capacity, but a longer term and more permanent, solution needs to be found. Last year I advised you that the Friends of Yiramalay group had been formed as a result of the wonderful efforts of Romy Moshinsky and Georgie Raik-Allen. Following a successful launch in 2014 at both Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road campuses in Melbourne, they organised a visit for interested Melbourne parents and friends to the school and the Kimberley, this year. The staff and students were delighted to host the visitors from Melbourne and show them what they are doing and the facilities at Yiramalay. It is pleasing to report that the school has hosted several other visitors over the year and that all who have visited have been very impressed with what we are doing.

The Yiramalay Foundation has had another successful year in raising much needed funds to underpin the school scholarship program. I want to thank all those who have supported the Foundation and thank all members of our Foundation Board for another successful year.

The success of what we are doing must be attributed in large part to the leadership and vision of our Principal, Dr Helen Drennen and the Executive Director, Ned McCord. When combined with the power of professional and dedicated staff, we can only admire what has been achieved and what will ultimately come to all students who attend the school. As I have said many times, the two way learning model established at the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School seems to work and be embraced by both our communities and there surely must be an opportunity for broader application in Australia.

I would like to thank the members the Steering Committee for all their work throughout the year. Their commitment, support and advice has been invaluable.

Finally I want to thank everyone involved with the school, whether as a member of the Steering Committee, a donor, a supporter, a member of staff or a student for what has been another great year.

Peter Harrison Chair Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee

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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 i 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 Aborigina students from the Kimberley region in Western 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.

Steering Committee Members	Meetings	
	Meetings attended	Meetings eligible to attend
Voting members Bunuba		
June Oscar, Chair, Bunuba Cattle Company and Bunuba elder - nil Kaylene Marr, nominated alternate member and Bunuba elder and traditional owner Yiramalay - four meetings	4	4
Danny Marr, Chair, Bunuba Aboriginal Corporation and Bunuba elder - nil Anthony Aiken, nominated alternate member and Bunuba elder - four meetings	4	4
Mary Aiken, Chair, Bunuba Inc and Bunuba elder - three meetings Joe Ross, nominated alternate member and Bunuba elder - one meeting	4	4
Voting members Wesley College		
Peter Harrison, Chair, Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee.	4	4
Dr Helen Drennen, Principal	4	4
Wendy Lasica, Member, Wesley College Council	4	4
Non voting members Wesley College		
Joe Ross, Bunuba elder and advisor to the Committee	3	3
Ned McCord, Executive Director, Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School	4	4
Cameron Moroney, Chief Financial Officer and Business Di ector, Wesley College	4	4

Meetings

Profile





Peter is the Chair of the Yiramalav/Weslev Studio School Peter is the Chair of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Steering Committee and is a former President of the Wesley College Council, having joined the College Council in 1993. He is currently the Chair of the Wesley College Foundation. Peter's career includes a 20 year period as managing partner of accounting firm William Buck, two short-term roles as CEO of legal firms Phillips Fox and Herbert Geer and Rundle and a 10 year term with consulting engineering firm AECOM, as their CFO for operations in Australia, New Zoulord Agie and the Middle Eard Mare presently the bar Zealand, Asia and the Middle East. More recently he has been consulting to several leading legal and accounting firms in Melbourne. Peter and his two sons are former students of the College



Kaylene Marr

June Oscar AO is a Bunuba woman from the Central Kimberley region and has represented the Kimberley Aboriginal community on a number of advisory positions and interests to the state and federal governments.

and interests to the state and rederal governments. June is a Director of Bunuba Films, Bunuba Pty Ltd and is currently the Chairperson of the Bunuba Cattle Company. She is the Chairperson of the Bunuba Prescribed Body Corporate and a Member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Board and currently works as CEO of Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing.

Hesource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing. Yajilarra, a documentary made about Emily Carter, Chair of the Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre and June's achievements, which premiered at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, has inspired people world-wide. June Oscar and Emily Carter accompanied the Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek MP, to the UN summit in New York in March 2009.



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 internationally. Prior to her appointment as Principal at Wesley College, Melbourne, she was Director of Academic Affairs for the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO), and then IB Director for the Asia Pacific egion.

She is currently a member of the Governing Board of the IBO, and a Trustee 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 Educational Leaders (FACEL) in 2011.



Danny spent his childhood on Brooking Springs Station near Fitzroy Crossing and did most of his schooling in Fitzroy Crossing, but completed Years 11 and 12 in Perth. Danny's family are the traditional owners of Galamunda and the Leopold Downs homestead area.

Danny is a self-taught musician and a founding member of the band, Fitzroy Xpress. He is the lead singer and writes most of the songs for the band. Fitzroy Xpress won the Album of the Year award at the 2005 Deadlys - the national Indigenous awards. *Fizroy Xpress* have released four albums and toured the "top end" of Australia. Danny is a director of the Bunuba Cattle Company and the current chairperson of the Bunuba Aboriginal Corporation.



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.

Aborginal fores strait stander Continussion. 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 Fitzrov River.





Cameron Moroney

the Business Director & Chief Financial Öffice . Cameron has held senior executive leadership positions at Chief Operating Office, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer level across multi-site complex businesses in areas including education (RMIT University), healthcare (Epworth HealthCare), telecommunications (Erricsson) 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. management.



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 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 ficilitating the development of the National Indigenous 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 ne uncertain director of the live export market. 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 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 conductor of Worker. is a graduate of Wesley



Kaylene Marr was born in Derby and grew up in Fitzroy Crossing and Yiramalay on Leopold Downs Station on Bunuba country and 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 and she is also an

actor who has featured in several major movies.

Anthony completed his Certificate IV as a Calm Ranger and Anthony completed his Certificate IV as a Calm Ranger and is based in Fitzroy Crossing. He is currently the Manager of Geiliki Gorge National Park and prior to this, Anthony worked as a tour guide for Darngku Heritage Cruises for five years. 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.

Principal's Overview





Yiramalay's growing community engagement was evident this year with the visit to Charles Darwin University and participation at the Garma Festival in August. Both demonstrated how well students and staff are bringing to life the unique story of Yiramalay, and sharing it with others in the community

Community Engagement and Partnership

As Principal, I have been enormously proud of our growing community engagement in both the Kimberley and in Melbourne this year. The growth in students' self confidenc and the openness of staff to challenge their own knowledge and expertise have been inspiring and indicate to us all that Yiramalay provides a unique experience of learning for every person who is part of its reach.

There were two special highlights of wider engagement in 2015, the first at Charles Darwin University and the second i the Northern Territory. In August, Yiramalay was invited to the Garma Festival in East Arnhem Land, one of the world's most prestigious Indigenous cultural events held in the Northern Territory. The title of the festival was, *Building Our Future*, *Strengthening Our Lives* and the festival brought together many outstanding Australians, gathering to share knowledge, build relationships for the future, forge alliances and make friends.

In the words of Elspett Munda, a Year 11 Yiramalay student who attended, *Garma was the best experience. It gave me inspiration to go back and teach the younger people in my home town to become great role models for those who are struggling with culture and language. We spent four days in the East Arnhem camping and learning about their culture and traditions.*

And in the words of William Powdrill, Year 11 Yiramalay student, *It was a fun week, we actually really enjoyed it. We went to Garma for four days, and stayed in Darwin for two days. There were bands playing, we saw a couple of famous people and watched cultural dance performance. We made a hip hop video and we actually practised on the band equipment.*

Staff Development

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The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School provides many opportunities for staff from the Kimberley and also for staff from the Melbourne campuses, to participate in two way learning, and to attend various workshops and forums over the year. At the start of 2015, the Yiramalay leadership team participated in a leadership development workshop in Melbourne. The workshop, run by consultant Estelle Bowman and Wesley College Director of Human Resources, Felicity Kaaks, centred on working in a team, managing a team, and delegating duties to others in the team.

In July, the Yapaneyepuk Symposium was held in Melbourne. A number of staff and students attended the three day program designed to highlight the connections between culture, general wellbeing, social and economic wellbeing, and to deepen knowledge of Indigenous learning and teaching models. The symposium reinforced the central importance of having opportunities to learn *on country*. It also highlighted that the more cultural support an Indigenous student has, the more likely they will achieve a better outcome in their schooling.

In August, staff and students attended the Fitzroy Crossing Maternal, Child and Youth Health Cultural Workshop, where all five attendees did an outstanding job p esenting on the first da . The workshop was on Mapirri Kirrananupurru Wangkikarra – which means "together sitting down talking".

Growth and Impact

During 2015, six induction programs were held onsite at Yiramalay and 39 students from the Kimberley travelled to study in Melbourne. Yiramalay also hosted a Friends of Yiramalay tour in August, for parents, Old Wesley Collegians, supporters of Indigenous education and others who are interested in engaging with and learning more about the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School, and the experiences and development of its students.

At Yiramalay, success in re-engaging students in their schooling is not measured by a simple calculation of the percentage of students who commence Year 10 and then complete Year 12. As outlined in the table on page 8, success at Yiramalay is defined in the ebroad categories: those who complete Year 10 and then continue at Yiramalay to complete Year 12, or who enrol in another school, or who are successful in gaining employment.

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Student Retention Rate

Intake Year	Intake total	Completed Year 10 Program	Completed Year 12 ¹	Enrolled at another school	Employed	Other ²	Unknown	Total % Successful Students ³
2010	7	7 (100%)	5 (72%)	0	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	0	86%
2011	9	5 (56%)	3 (60%)	0	1 (20%)	1 (20%)	0	80%
2012	15	13 (87%)	3 (23%)	4 (31%)	3 (23%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)	77%
2013	21	16 (76%)	9 (57%)	5 (31%)	1 (6%)	0	1 (6%)	94%
2014	20	14 (70%)	9 (64%)	4 (29%)	0	1 (7%)	0	93%
2015	31	27 (87%)	22 (81%)	4 (15%)	0	0	1 (4%)	96%

Student Retention and Success

¹Completed Year 12 data for 2012 - 2015 intake years are estimates based on current trends.

²Other: includes students still connected with the school who left to have a child or deal with a mental health issue

³Total % Successful Students: students who either completed Year 12 with Yiramalay, enrolled at another

school or gained employment as a percentage of those who completed the Year 10 program

This year, seven Year 12 students graduated, the largest number of Year 12 graduates in a year to date. This in itself, was a milestone achievement, but there were many other achievements, some attained very quietly by individuals and others collectively by the whole mob. They all required enormous determination, hard work and absolute commitment to succeed.

Onsite at Yiramalay, there were also significant upgrades t facilities over the year. Additional staff housing and a new containerised kitchen facility have been installed; the kitchen is part of the new kitchen/dining facility which has been fully funded by the Indigenous Advancement Strategy funding from the Federal Government. The College also installed a new commercial quality/capacity Optus satellite to increase satellite internet capacity fivefold, ahead of a feasibilit evaluation of a "line of site"/microwave tower option to lift existing internet capacity tenfold plus. At the heart of any great school is an exceptional staff, both teaching and support staff, and here Yiramalay continues to be blessed. Executive Director, Ned McCord, senior staff, Tanya Davies, Eliza Barlow, Kaylene Marr, Debbie Cherel, Raylene Pindan, Frank Concilia and Felicity Pearson, Dawn Anderson, teachers, and cultural and residential mentors, all continued to develop as a team in 2015. 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 2015 was a inspiration to us all.

Helen Drennen Principal



Executive Director's Report





Yiramalay has had an exciting and busy year where much learning and individual growth and development have taken place and new challenges have been met

The Yiramalay school year began on 22 January with a quick stop over in Melbourne then off to Mallana for a six-day camp. The group enjoyed the cooler weather, fishing, swimming, painting and lea ning to sail. Once back in Melbourne, at the Glen Waverley campus, students continued to engage in all Wesley had to offer and took part in music lessons, hip hop music festivals, local sport competitions and the day-to-day classes.

For many, coming from the Kimberley to Melbourne is a whole new cultural experience. The Kimberley Aboriginal students and Mentors enjoyed meeting the other Aboriginal tribes from Victoria, having met people of Wurunderjeri, Kulin and Yorta Yorta tribes. Seeing them all come together as one, and how welcoming the Victorian tribes were, made the Yiramalay group feel safe and very special to be welcomed to their land.

In February at Yiramalay Induction 14 began, the firs induction of six for 2015. The growth and interest in the Yiramalay program from both Aboriginal and Melbourne students has seen the Studio School operating in the Kimberley during Term 1 and now, in Term 4. A common thread among the groups this year has been the power of the story. As each induction has settled into life at Yiramalay the students have taken time to share their stories and this has enabled students from Melbourne and the Kimberley to be able to forge friendships. A story can take many different forms and is an important part of Aboriginal culture.

Students have risen to many challenges during the school year and it is always great to see the many individuals in the Yiramalay program all being given the chance to contribute and help make important decisions, as they provide empowering opportunities for students to learn and develop, not only in life skills, but also in what it takes to live with others in a way that everyone can grow and feel valued.

In July, a number of staff attended the Yapaneyepuk Symposium in Melbourne. The theme of the symposium was *Walking Together to Make a Difference*. Participants were immersed in three days of program designed to deepen the knowledge and understanding of Australia's first people ways of doing, being and learning. In August Yiramalay students and staff, as well as Dr Helen Drennen and two Glen Waverley students, attended the Garma Festival hosted by the Yothu Yindi Foundation. This is held *on country* near Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory. There were over 2,500 people at the festival from all over the world. The theme of the festival was *Building Our Future*, *Strengthening Our Lives*. There were leaders from all walks of life discussing the Australian Constitution and recognition of Aboriginal people, domestic violence and violence against women and the dreadfulness of Australian Statistics, Education and Health issues in Aboriginal people.

On the way to Garma the group also visited Charles Darwin University. Yiramalay has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with Charles Darwin University Education Faculty, to look at ways of working together and providing opportunities for Aboriginal students and mentors, as well as providing a place for trainee teachers to come and learn at Yiramalay.

In late August Yiramalay had three staff members and two students attend the Fitzroy Crossing Maternal, Child and Youth Health Cultural Workshop - Mapirri Kirrananupurru Wangkikarra (this means "together sitting down talking").

Yiramalay again this year participated in the Troy Bycroft Cup, a local football competition for Kimberley schools, held in Fitzroy Crossing, for students in Years 10, 11 and 12. Yiramalay played with the Fitzroy Crossing teams and local students were well supported by induction 18 boys. The Halls Creek team were the overall winners of the knockout competition.

We again hosted two second year medical students from Notre Dame University, Fremantle campus during August. The Notre Dame program has been running for over 10 years and it is all about providing experience for future doctors in Rural Australia. This is so that they can experience first-hand issues people face living in the outback and learn about the culture and lifestyle in the Kimberley region.





Other highlights:

- Students and Aboriginal mentors participated in the protest held in Melbourne CBD against the closure of Remote Communities in WA
- Student Jaylene Smith, Year 11 organised the *Yiramalay's Got Talent* show to raise money for survivors of the Nepal Earthquake. Many staff and students participated and performed music, dance and acting and they raised \$230 during the night
- National Reconciliation Week Yiramalay students had a full week of commitments. Special assemblies were held at Glen Waverley and St Kilda Road. Monash Reconciliation Group, supported by Wesmob, held a gallery exhibition at the Highway Gallery, Glen Waverley. This exhibition featured superb photography of past Yiramalay induction student Tom Molinaro as well as art work by Aboriginal mentor and Bunuba traditional owner, Kaylene Marr. The students were invited to form a guard of honour by the Western Bulldogs football team as the players ran onto the field at Etiha Stadium. To end the week, students and staff attended the Victorian Indigenous Remembrance service held at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne
- Yiramalay attended and participated in the Kimberley Cup for the first time. This is an interschool sports ca nival hosted by Broome Senior High School. Schools from across the Kimberley all participate with the main events being basketball, netball and football. Student participation was excellent and it was great to be representing Yiramalay at such a significant community even
- Wangi Yupurnanupurru Radio 936 AM set up a live broadcasts session from the Bilga Margo (Community Building) at Yiramalay
- The *Friends of Yiramalay* arrived to join in the celebration for Induction 17 Graduation. The group was established and led by Georgie Raik-Allen and Romy Moshinsky. They were ably supported on the tour by Dr Helen Drennen, and Joe Ross, a Bunuba Elder and Chair of the Yiramalay Foundation

Yiramalay has had an exciting and busy year where much learning and individual growth and development have taken place and new challenges have been met. I have only highlighted some of the many activities and achievements for 2015. These and many others all form part of the Yiramalay story as we continue to support students with their learning and personal development so they too can take advantage of the opportunities that life presents.

Ned McCord Executive Director



Curriculum





They reflect o these goals and the progress they make towards achieving them through experience in the workplace



Senior Years Learning Framework

In 2015, five students graduated f om the Senior Years Learning Framework (SYLF) Standard Level, whilst another student completed 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 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 as academic learning. This course has been designed for students interested in moving directly to work or further vocational education at the completion of secondary school.

In 2015, twenty students spent the year working through the first year of this Standa d Level course and six students worked through the first year of the Advanced Level course

Industry Learning

Industry Learning in the Senior Years Learning Framework 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 p ogress 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; and
- Technology

Students were involved in the following Industry Learning:

- SYN Radio broadcasting and training
- First Aid training
- ABB Australia Pty Limited Electrical Engineering Industry
- TAFE at Kimberley Training Institute Certificate I i GATE
- Education Student support in class
- Office Administration at esley 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
- Horticulture at Wesley College, with Rob Savedra
- Tourism through a number of Yiramalay community events





Personal Development through Community Activity

In 2015 all graduating students completed their Personal Development through Community Activity in community based projects. These projects included a wide variety of topics including *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 confidenc
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Cultural awareness

The Personal Development through Community Activity program involves goal setting, planning, reflection, an community service. In 2015, the students moved outside the Yiramalay community and spent time with the 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

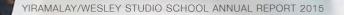
Academic Learning

The academic learning component in the Standard Level course is incorporated in a pre-vocational and Vocational Education and Training (VET) Certificate that p ovides training for employment in a range of industries and/or further study. The course is nationally accredited as a Certificate II in ork Preparation and focuses on the development of employability skills, literacy, numeracy and ICT literacy skills. This certificat has been structured in a flexible fashion so that it can b adapted to local/regional requirements and opportunities.

Students in Year 10 completed Certificate I in G TE, community projects and travelled to Melbourne during Term 4 to undergo transition into the Senior Years Learning Framework.

Tanya Davies Program Coordinator

Frank Concilia Senior Years Learning Framework Curriculum Coordinator



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Kimberley Cup

At the end of Term 2 2015, Yiramalay entered the Kimberley Cup, an annual interschool sports carnival hosted by Broome Senior High School, for the first time. iramalay students had been very keen to represent Yiramalay at this event for several years, and it was a proud moment when the selected students donned their Yiramalay Kimberley Cup uniforms and stepped out on to the courts and sports fields for th first time. wenty one students, supported by five sta f represented Yiramalay in boys' basketball, girls' basketball and in a joint football team with Fitzroy Crossing. Each of our teams recorded one win or draw, and all games were played with great spirit. It was heart-warming to see several former Yiramalay students come and support over the carnival.

It was wonderful that Yiramalay was represented at such a significant community event, and we we e very proud to have four of our students recognised – Tanalia Kitching was awarded runner up for *Most Valuable Player* for basketball and three of our boys, Reace Brooking, Darren Kirkman and Hakeem Davey, were invited to be part of the All Stars boys' basketball team. The Yiramalay community looks forward to having this sports carnival included as an annual event in our calendar.

Troy Bycroft Shield

In late August, Yiramalay students participated in the 2015 Troy Bycroft Shield Football Carnival held in Fitzroy Crossing. Students from Kimberley schools attended the Carnival and showed of their skills and teamwork on the footy field. Fo the first time iramalay participated in the carnival, a local football competition for Kimberley schools, held in Fitzroy Crossing. Yiramalay students played with the Fitzroy Crossing teams and the local students were well supported by Wesley College Induction 18 boys from Melbourne.

Although the Halls Creek team were the overall winners of the knock-out competition, the students had a great time thanks to Fitzroy Crossing Clontarf staff who put on a great carnival. It was great to see lots of smiles on all the players' faces!

American Basketball Tour

On 6 December, Karl, Teneille, Kahlia, Tashka and Henry joined 24 other Wesley students on a basketball tour to the USA. The tour promised all students the opportunity to play against opponents from the US, take part in elite training experiences, watch College teams train, visit College sports facilities, see College and NBA games live, and be part of an American home stay experience. Over the three trip, they visited San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Vancouver (in Canada) and Los Angeles.

The time spent in Melbourne preparing for the tour was equally as important as the experiences on the tour itself. The students had to attend training on a weekly basis for all of Term 4, often missing out on activities with the main mob to attend the training. They also had to assist with the applications for their passports and the purchasing of necessary clothing and equipment, as well as support fundraising activities to help cover additional activity costs on tour.

The staff could not have been prouder of the five iramalay students while they were away. They mixed well with the Wesley students, were always eager to be part of the larger team, including stepping up to the responsibility that comes from being part of a team.

Highlights of the three weeks included seeing the fiv Yiramalay students grow in confidence and independence watching them on the basketball court (especially the pride in themselves as they improved), the coherence of the 34 member tour group, spending time in the snow in Canada, and seeing the sights in Los Angeles. The tour was a wonderful end to 2015, and an experience the students will never forget.



State and Commonwealth Reporting Requirements



2015 Overview

	Year Level	Number of Students	Graduated
Senior Years Learning Framework - Advanced Level	Year 12	1	December 2015
VCE	Year 12	5	December 2015
Senior Years Learning Framework - Advanced Level	Year 11	6	Ongoing
Senior Years Learning Framework - Standard Level	Year 11	20	Ongoing
Year 10/Pre-Senior Years Learning Framework	Year 10	20	Ongoing
Yiramalay Induction Program 4 March to 25 March	Group 14	28	March 2015
Yiramalay Induction Program 29 April to 20 May	Group 15	27	May 2015
Yiramalay Induction Program 10 June to 1 July	Group 17	20	June 2015
Yiramalay Induction Program 22 July to 12 August	Group 17	20	August 2015
Yiramalay Induction Program 19 August to 9 September	Group 18	15	September 2015
Yiramalay Induction Program 30 September to 21 October	Group 19	15	October 2015

Key Student Outcomes

Achievements for 2015:

- Near perfect 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. Focus on sportin competitions has significantly helped students to se goals and improve their health
- Demonstrated readiness to learn and to engage in two-way learning the majority of the Aboriginal students acted as leaders for *learning on country*
- Demonstrated readiness to teach non-Aboriginal students *black fella* 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 students in Melbourne
- More opportunities taken for involvement in the wider community, including the Kimberley Cup and Wesley College interschool sport
- New opportunities for experiences in industry, including developing many connections and partnerships with business and high education facilities in Melbourne

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 regularly 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 school staff on the impact of the induction program on their Melbourne teaching program

Reporting

At the end of each Induction Program, students are awarded a *certificate of completio*, if they have attended all three weeks of the program, as well as having participated in learning sessions and the life of the community, including daily community duties. These certificates also indicate a eas 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.

Community Feedback

The connection between the Studio School and the communities in both Melbourne and the Kimberley continues to grow. At Yiramalay, Kimberley families and community members attend each Induction Graduation, community BBQs, parents meetings, and student/parent feedback nights, held either at the school or in Fitzroy Crossing itself. 2015 saw the first ecognition of all 2014 graduates at a ceremony in Fitzroy Crossing, held in early Term 2. This provided an opportunity for the families and friends of students to gather together to celebrate the significan achievements of all Yiramalay students. We were proud to have students both helping to lead the celebrations, as well as performing musical items for the large crowd that attended. 2015 also saw the first Friends of Yiramalay visit to Yiramalay. This provided many Wesley parents with an invaluable opportunity to see the school in action on country, as well as visit the surrounding communities and sights, to give context to the school vision and goals.

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In Melbourne, families of the Wesley community continue to generously open their homes and lives to the Yiramalay students, and the Yiramalay students have continued to explore many of the opportunities available to them to be part of the wider Wesley community.

The level of interest for student applications and expressions of interest in induction programs continue to grow. In 2016, six induction programs will be run to cater for the growing demand from Wesley College students (over 180 initial expressions of interest). Equally as heartening and challenging are the over 50 expressions of interest from the Fitzroy Valley and beyond.

Professional Engagement

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is governed and managed by Wesley College Melbourne, and as such, reflects the sta f 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 local activities and conferences and opportunities for interstate and international professional development.

Staff Professional Development

Teaching staff at the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School have either completed or are working towards their Certificat IV in Training and Assessment. Throughout this course, staff develop skills necessary to create meaningful learning environments, design learning processes and products and manage the learning process whilst acquiring the skills in assessing other people's progress through a course. This qualification is needed to become a p ofessional trainer or assessor in a workplace or in the education and training sector.

All residential mentors are also offered training to develop their skills to enhance the work they do within the school program. Training offered includes First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, driver training, Cultural Awareness and support with Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills. In 2015, focus has again been given to developing individual professional development plans for staff. Connections and partnerships with Universities throughout Australia continue to made, to ensure staff are provided with the most appropriate options for further education.

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School employs and provides ongoing training for many local Aboriginal people. Throughout 2015 Aboriginal people made up the majority of residential staff working in the program, and others were employed as cultural mentors, teachers' aides, administration and general staff.

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 is currently registered for Years 10, 11 and 12 for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015.

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 difficultie 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 imp oved 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.





ABSTUDY Funding

ABSTUDY funding also commenced in 2013. This is specifi funding for Indigenous students, provided under provisions of the federally-funded Centrelink program. It is a complex means-tested model, requiring significant paperwork and i also a complicated process for Indigenous families, who need to apply on an individual basis. Currently, ABSTUDY funding is being received for about half of the students in the program.

Philanthropic Support

Philanthropy has been key to the establishment and growth of the Studio School and remains a fundamental piece in moving forward with continued development in order to achieve the vision of a strong and synergistic relationship between Wesley College and the Fitzroy Valley community in promoting cultural learning across Australia.

Yiramalay Foundation

The establishment, growth, and constant development of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School have been driven by the dynamic and supportive relationship between Wesley College and the Fitzroy Valley community. Both parties have exhibited unwavering commitment to the vision of the Studio School and to the promotion of cross cultural learning across Australia.

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School continues to receive generous funding and support from its donors and sponsors, without whom this unique program would not exist. The success of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is undeniable: the numbers of Indigenous students involved in the program steadily increasing year to year, and the undoubted popularity of the induction program among Melbourne students. Both groups of students enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to experience different cultures, the city life of Melbourne and the experience of learning *on country* at Yiramalay. The Yiramalay Foundation has welcomed many new donors in 2015 and would like to express its deep gratitude for the support received from sponsors old and new.

Highlights for the Foundation include the 2015 *Friends of Yiramalay* tour, which saw 23 Wesley College parents and friends travelling to the Studio School for an *on country* experience. Another was the commencement of kitchen/ dining facility that will be finalised in 2016, enhancing th space at the Studio School. Finally, the most outstanding highlight was when seven Year 12 Yiramalay students graduated from the Studio School. More than \$2.7m has been generated over the last six years through the combined efforts of the Yiramalay Foundation and the Wesley College Foundation. In 2016 the Yiramalay Foundation aims to extend this effort in order to further fund student scholarships, so that the program is able to reach more young Indigenous people, who would otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in such a program. Funding is also being sought for further building projects which are vital to the growth and development of the Studio School including sporting and cultural facilities and information technology.

The Yiramalay Foundation continues to work with corporations, trusts and foundations that have supported the Studio School in the past, while seeking out new ones. We are grateful to The Portland House Foundation, The Kimberley Foundation, Campion Education and Nuline Charters Pty Ltd, who have continued their loyal and generous support in 2015. The Foundation would also like to acknowledge the support of the Federal and West Australian Governments for capital works funding for additional student accommodation and a new dining/kitchen facility.

We are thankful for the ever-increasing number of alumni and parents from both communities who are also supporting this innovative program. The Yiramalay Foundation is appreciative of the guidance and support from the Principal, Dr Helen Drennen, Executive Director, Ned McCord and Peter Harrison, Chair of the Yiramalay Wesley/Studio School Steering Committee and its members, as well as the Chair of the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School Foundation Board, Joe Ross, and its members. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Cameron Moroney, Jack Moshakis, Andrew McAree and the staff of Wesley College, and also all the staff and students of the Studio School.

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