



YIRAMALAY / WESLEY STUDIO SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Fairfield, Leopold Road, Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia



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

Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School Annual Report 2018

| CONTENTS | |
|---|----|
| Governance | 3 |
| Studio School Steering Committee | 4 |
| Principal's overview | 6 |
| Executive Director's report | 10 |
| Curriculum | 14 |
| Sport | 17 |
| Registration and funding | 18 |
| State and Commonwealth reporting requirements | 20 |
| Philanthropic support | 24 |
| Donors | 26 |
| | |
| | |

GOVERNANCE

2018 has been another very successful year for the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School and for the partnership between the Bunuba community and Wesley College. Much has been achieved. The school continues to evolve and broaden its range of educational opportunities and increase its reach in continuing to develop learning opportunities for students and their communities.

Aboriginal students this year have come from many different places across Northern and Central Australia. More than 120 students from Wesley's Melbourne campuses were hosted by Yiramalay students and the shared learning and development of friendships and mutual understanding between students is evident. There are many metrics regarding the development of the educational value, in its broadest terms, and in financial management of the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School which inform the Steering Committee. This is thanks to the diligent and comprehensive reporting of Ned McCord, Executive Director, Dr Helen Drennen, Principal Wesley College and Cameron Moroney, Business Director and CFO Wesley College.

External validation comes in numerous and various forms. Most recently and importantly the school's success was measured through the extensive registration process conducted by the Western Australian government, which resulted in the maximum period of registration being issued to the school, a great credit to staff and students alike. Another positive indicator in recent Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage data showed average school attendance rates at Yiramalay at the top in remote communities, at the 90th percentile.

As always, it is vitally important that supporting infrastructure keeps pace with the ongoing and anticipated needs of the Studio School. This provides ongoing challenges to ensure the best fit of providers for our unique environment as well as ensure the selection of partners who can provide value for money. This year the Steering Committee endorsed a new vehicle fleet configuration, to ensure the fleet meets new regulatory standards and is efficient at meeting increasingly complicated transport requirements. The Steering Committee also considered and endorsed further development of an IT solution which would be available to provide a more reliable internet service appropriate to the school's needs, potentially bringing a fibre service to the school. This is a complex and expensive

process and capital grant funding would be sought to bring this important project to fruition. The Steering Committee is grateful to Cameron Moroney for his patience and guidance to the Steering Committee and his ongoing commitment to this project, which will be progressed in full consultation with traditional owners.

Looking to the future, the Steering Committee has expressed support for the development of further educational initiatives that are in the very early stages of development. These include the possibility to expand the Yiramalay model to the middle years and to build a capability to teach and learn across cultures for Indigenous and non-Indigenous teachers through an in-house teaching and learning facility. The Steering Committee has also given support to the establishment of Studio Schools Australia, which aims to grow the scale and impact of the unique Yiramalay model across Australia. With Wesley College support, these initiatives are being led by Dr Helen Drennen whose infectious enthusiasm and commitment will continue to support the studio school concept in general and of course the Yiramalay Studio School itself.

I would like to thank all members of the Steering Committee for their contributions over the past year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Mary Aitkin, Bunuba Elder, who has recently retired from the Steering Committee. Mary's support for Yiramalay has been unswerving and her wise counsel on all matters, especially in relation to the community partnership and Bunuba culture, has been immensely valuable to the Steering Committee. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Dr Helen Drennen who leaves the Steering Committee as her tenure as Wesley principal has ended. But as indicated above, thankfully, we haven't seen the end of Helen just yet!

Finally, a big thank you to Ned McCord and the students and staff who have participated in the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School in 2018 and especially to Jo Guzzo who provided support to the Steering Committee. I look forward to 2019 with great optimism. If you read the wonderful, colourful Yiramalay newsletters containing stories about our students you could not possibly feel any other way!

Estelle Bowman Chair, Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School



THE SCHOOL CONTINUES TO EVOLVE AND BROADEN ITS RANGE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INCREASE ITS REACH IN CONTINUING TO DEVELOP LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

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 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.

Meetings

| Steering Committee members | Meetings attended | Meetings eligible to attend |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Estelle Bowman, Independent Chair | 4 | 4 |
| Voting members – Bunuba | | |
| Kaylene Marr, member, Bunuba Elder and traditional owner Yiramalay | 4 | 4 |
| Waylon Marr, member, Bunuba Elder | 2 | 4 |
| Mary Aiken, Chair, Bunuba Inc and Bunuba Elder – 3 Nominated alternate member Kohana Ross – 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 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 | | |
| Ned McCord, Executive Director, Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School | 4 | 4 |
| Cameron Moroney, Chief Financial Officer and Business Director, Wesley College – 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Nominated alternate member Chris Kavenagh, Associate Director, Finance and Performance Reporting – 1 | | |

Profiles



Estelle Bowman's expertise spans the public, private and academic sectors in Australia and overseas

Estelle Bowman

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 Psychological 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).

Helen Drennen



Helen Drennen 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 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 is 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. In 2016 she was recognised in the Australia Day Honours list as a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia.



Kaylene Marr

Kaylene Marr was born in Derby and arew up in Fitzrov Crossing and Yiramalay on Leopold Downs Station on

Bunuba country. She is a traditional owner of the land and an artist whose connection to the land inspires her artwork. 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. She is also an actor who has featured in several major film productions. Kaylene is passionate about preserving the language and culture of the Bunuba people while embracing white fella education to improve outcomes for Indigenous people.



Mary Aiken

Marv Aiken is a Bunuba woman who was born and raised in Fitzroy Crossing. Marv 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.

Waylon Marr

Waylon Marr is a Bunuba man and traditional owner of Galamunda Muway on Bunuba country. He was appointed

as a Director to the Bunuba Dawangarri Aboriginal Corporation Board in 2017 and in 2018 selected as Vice Chairperson to the Board. Waylon together with his partner is cofounder and owner of Windjana Tours that operates out of Derby, conducting tours to Tunnel Creek and Windjana Gorge. Waylon is the drummer for Fitzroy Xpress, living legends in the Australian country rock music scene and regarded as the Kimberley's premier country rock outfit.



Ned McCord is the Executive Director of the Yiramalav/ Wesley Studio School. From

was the Director/Business Coordinator of the Bunuba Cattle Company, Leopold Downs and Fairfield Station. 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 nonexecutive 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. He has Limited Registration from the Teacher Registration Board of Western Australia.



Marianne Stillwell is the President of the Wesley College Council. She has been a member of the Wesley College

Marianne Stillwell

Council since 2006, and is the Chair of the Strategy, Ethics, Compliance and Governance Committee, and Remuneration Committee. 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 vehicle retail. She is also Deputy Chair of the Board of Management for Independent Schools Victoria. Marianne's daughter currently attends Wesley College and her two sons are graduates of Wesley.

Ned McCord



Wendy Lasica

Wendy Lasica is a member of the Wesley College Council and an award-winning theatre producer. She has been a

director and board member of the 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 of Victoria. 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 Wesley College and her daughter is a graduate of Wesley.

Cameron Moroney



Cameron Moronev is the Business Director and Chief Financial Officer of Wesley College. Cameron has held senior executive

leadership positions at the Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer level across complex. multi-site businesses including RMIT University, Epworth HealthCare, Ericsson and BHP. 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.

The quality of a school depends on the quality of its staff and the student engagement that our staff members enable

ELLAN I

PRINCIPAL'S OVERVIEW



It is often said that, in life, the journey is more important than the destination but those present at the Yiramalay graduation at the Glen Waverley campus Speech Night at the Melbourne Town Hall this year saw this piece of wisdom turned on its head.

Year 12 Graduation 2018

A record 10 Yiramalay students graduated from Year 12 this year: Jermayn Watson from Derby, Wylie Oscar from Fitzroy Crossing, Dereace Hunter from Broome, Mahalia Lane from Broome, Jannah Macale from Fitzroy Crossing, Natarlia Bradshaw from Fitzroy Crossing, Brigalow McIntosh from Broome, Angie Gumana from Gapuwiyak, Mario Rex from Wyndham and Mediline Wunungmurra from Gapuwiyak.

The inspiration provided by each student's achievement was very special. Each had arrived at a long dreamed for destination and the moment was savoured by all – not just by the graduates, but by their parents from remote communities who had travelled long distances to be there, by their friends and teachers from both Yiramalay and Melbourne, and by the Elders and leaders of the partnership between the Bunuba community and Wesley College in Melbourne who had established and developed Yiramalay who were present that night. It was a deeply moving experience to see our graduating Yiramalay students defying the odds and changing the landscape of school completion for Australia's Indigenous peoples.

IT WAS A DEEPLY MOVING EXPERIENCE TO SEE OUR GRADUATING YIRAMALAY STUDENTS DEFYING THE ODDS AND CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF SCHOOL COMPLETION FOR AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



A record 10 Yiramalay students graduated in 2018



Learning in Residence plays a significant role in the success of our Yiramalay programs

Impact and growth

The addition of the 10 new graduates brings the total number of graduates since the school's inception to 44.

From March until November 2018, five Induction programs were run involving a total of 166 students, which included 127 students from Melbourne and 39 Aboriginal students from many different places across Northern and Central Australia. We had students from Western Australia who travelled from Broome, One Arm Point, Roebourne, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Kununurra, while from the Northern Territory, students travelled from Gapuwiyak, Emu Point, Borroloola and Uluru. The distances students travel to attend Yiramalay are an indication of their enormous determination, hard work and absolute commitment to succeed in order to create better futures for themselves and their communities who will reap the benefits for many years to come.

Since October 2010, Yiramalay student enrolment has grown ten-fold. 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.

The breadth of educational opportunities at Yiramalay are many and include the Induction program, Senior Years

THE DISTANCES STUDENTS TRAVEL TO ATTEND YIRAMALAY ARE AN INDICATION OF THEIR ENORMOUS DETERMINATION, HARD WORK AND ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT TO SUCCEED IN ORDER TO CREATE BETTER FUTURES FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES WHO WILL REAP THE BENEFITS FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

Learning Framework, VCE and *Learning in Residence*. The impact of learning and personal growth is far reaching, affecting not only those students who attend the school, but their families, their communities and all those whose lives they touch.

The quality of a school is always reflected by the quality of staff and in this regard Yiramalay is blessed. As Principal, I know that we are fortunate to have exceptional staff and I would like to thank Ned McCord, Kaylene Marr, Felicity Pearson, Matt Watson, Kym Adams, Tegan Gluschenko and Dean Thompson for the leadership and commitment they have shown, and to all teachers both at Yiramalay and in Melbourne. They are assisted by formidable support staff including Marte Ur Loevaas, Sheryl Chaplin, Joe Guzzo and Dawn Anderson who do a magnificent job. 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 2018 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.

Yiramalay re-registration process in Western Australia

An important undertaking that occurred in 2018 was the process for school re-registration in Western Australia. The process involved significant document preparation and review, which was followed by a re-registration visit. The re-registration visit conducted on 10 October went smoothly. Yiramalay was awarded the maximum five-year period of registration to 31 December 2023. The preparation was outstanding and I congratulate all staff who were involved in the extensive re-registration process for their hard work. As my time as Principal of Wesley College comes to an end, I would like to recognise the invaluable lessons in leadership I have learnt at Yiramalay. The overriding importance of authenticity, of knowing who you are, what you believe in and what you stand for has been modelled for me by our Aboriginal countrymen at Yiramalay. It has been an absolute privilege to be the Principal and I am enormously proud of the strength of Wesley's partnership with the Bunuba people which has taught so many people at Wesley so much.

Helen Drennen Principal, Wesley College

Five Inductions brought together 39 Aboriginal students from across Northern and Central Australia and 127 students from across Wesley's Melbourne campuses 'Our students have set a pathway to pursue their individual aspirations.' Ned McCord

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School has, in 2018, grown and strengthened as a leading independent school in Western Australia providing education and learning opportunities to both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal students in the Kimberley.

A year of strong growth

Strong growth has been facilitated by the successful completion of five Induction programs at Yiramalay in the Kimberley where 166 students – 39 Aboriginal students from across Northern and Central Australia and 127 students from Melbourne – have learnt

together side by side during their participation in the three-week program.

The strength of the school is reflected by our re-registration by the Western Australia Department of Education following the mandatory process for school re-registration in 2018. The WA Department of Education granted the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School registration for the maximum term of five years.

The most tangible endorsement in 2018 has been the excitement and applause at the Glen Waverley Speech Night when our 10 graduating Yiramalay Year 12 students took to the stage to be congratulated by the Principal, Dr Helen Drennen, and Wesley College Council President, Marianne Stillwell.



The excitement and applause at the 2018 Glen Waverley Campus Speech Night was a tangible endorsement of the Yiramalay program



Kaylene Marr and Mary Aiken officially opened the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School new student accommodation in May

Transport and accommodation

At the beginning of the year in the Kimberley, with all the rain just prior to pick-up, we were met with some challenges in getting all the students studying at Glen Waverley to Melbourne in February and again just as challenging getting the Yiramalay community onsite. Broome had nearly two metres of rain after Christmas and places to the east received closer to three metres for the same period.

New student accommodation was officially opened on Friday 18 May. The student accommodation was jointly funded through the Commonwealth Capital Grant Program (managed by the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia), Wesley College and the Yiramalay Foundation (Building Fund) at a total cost of \$1.7 million. Over the January 2018 school holiday period, builders were busy onsite at Yiramalay not only completing the new student accommodation, but also refurbishing the existing student accommodation and the old kitchen/dining room. The old kitchen has now become the new Community Teaching and Learning Centre. Over time it will be fitted out with the latest technology and furniture, to enhance learning, and provide comfort and choice to meet the individual learning styles of each student.

We held five very successful Inductions during 2018. All Inductions are joined by Aboriginal students, who come from many different places across the North. We have Aboriginal students from Broome, One Arm Point, Roebourne, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Kununurra in Western Australia and Gapuwiyak, Emu Point, Borroloola and Uluru in the Northern Territory. Applications from students at Wesley's Melbourne campuses and students at Yiramalay continue to be oversubscribed and we always seem to have many on the waiting list.

During 2018 there have been many highlights that have contributed to student learning, health and wellbeing. Students have been challenged, have grown within themselves and have set a pathway to reach their individual aspirations. WE HELD FIVE **VERY SUCCESSFUL INDUCTIONS DURING 2018, APPLICATIONS** FROM STUDENTS **AT WESLEY'S MELBOURNE CAMPUSES AND STUDENTS AT YIRAMALAY CONTINUE TO BE OVERSUBSCRIBED AND WE ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE** MANY ON THE WAITING LIST.

Highlights

- Aaron Wunungmurra from Gapuwiyak in the NT won the under-18 Boys event at the Woorrangalook Victorian Koori Surf Titles, with only one surfing lesson under his belt.
- A group of Yiramalay girls attended the "Wiyi Yani U Thangani" – Securing our rights Securing our Future' forum hosted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, June Oscar AO. The girls represented the school superbly and had a great experience.
- Yiramalay students Alison Lockyer and Maxie Coppin demonstrated their acting talent in their stage performances in the Glen Waverley Campus production of The Electra Legacy. Big congratulations to both.
- The Year 12 Formal was a great success, with the students looking smart with support from the Friends of Yiramalay and supervised by Mojdeh Pleasants. They arrived at the venue in style in a Hummer, thanks to Dean Wilson Transport in Broome.
- Our students once again showed the Kimberley their fortitude and dedication to a good cause by riding 600 kilometres along the Gibb River Road from Derby on the west coast to Kununurra the eastern border in the Gibb Challenge. The Gibb Challenge is a larger-than-life week for students and staff that focuses on team work, resilience and challenging oneself. Through the Gibb Challenge, our students also raise money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS),

an important service in remote Australia. Many Yiramalay supporters contributed to fundraising.

• In mid-2018, Yiramalay students participated in the Kimberley Cup in Broome. Students began serious preparations in the weeks leading up to the Cup, honing their skills and building team spirit at our Kimberley site. Induction 34 students were very fortunate to be a part of this lead up and to participate in the range of sports on offer across the week. Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School participated in football, mixed AFL 9s, boys' basketball in two teams, girls' basketball, girls' and mixed netball, and girls' soccer - eight teams altogether. Students were very respectful and represented our school brilliantly across the week of events. The competition was fierce and there were some hotly contested games. Stand-outs were the girls' netball team, winning their grand final and the boys' AFL team, which combined with St Marys to win the flag for a third year in a row. The soccer competition provided the stage for some scintillating skills from the Yiramalay girls. Another highlight was our boys' basketball team playing in the grand final against La Grange/ Bidyadanga team. It was a very close and competitive game with La Grange/ Bidyadanga coming out on top by a couple of points. More notable than the team victories and outstanding individual performances were the displays of sportsmanship, teamwork and genuine enjoyment.

There have been many great Yiramalay stories of achievement as a school and many individual successes for the year. One of the most significant has been the celebration of National Reconciliation Week and the stories told by the students and staff as part of that celebration. **Our National Reconciliation Week** celebrations highlighted how exceptional partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, such as our Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School partnership, can play a leading role in reconciliation. The success of our unique partnership between the Bunuba people of the Fitzroy Valley in WA and Wesley College Melbourne goes much deeper than just an educational partnership, and although it uses education as a pathway to acceptance, it brings together Australia's first citizens, its Indigenous people, with the multi-cultural citizens of Australia today. The most significant lesson learned is the importance of listening to each other's stories and respecting and appreciating each other's cultures as a first of many small steps.

Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is about living together and learning by looking, listening and feeling. Yiramalay supports all students to pursue their chosen pathway and provides opportunities for students to grow alongside others of different languages and cultures. We look forward to hearing the stories of our 2018, Year 12 leavers as they commence their life journey post school.

Ned McCord Executive Director



Attendees at the official opening of new student accommodation in May

Senior Years Learning Framework – Years 11 and 12

IN 2018, NINE STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM THEIR PROGRAMS WITHIN THE SENIOR YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK STANDARD LEVEL, AND ONE STUDENT FROM THEIR PROGRAM WITHIN SYLF ADVANCED LEVEL

bhpbilliton

CURRICULUM



Students model the new Yiramalay uniform introduced in 2018

In 2018, nine students graduated from their programs within the Senior Years Learning Framework Standard Level, and one student from their program within SYLF Advanced Level.

Academic learning

The Senior Years Learning Framework (SYLF) Advanced Level course is designed for students interested in pathways into further vocational education and university. To complete the SYLF Advanced, students are required to complete personal development activities, industry learning and a structured work placement or parttime job. In addition, students are expected to study English with at least three other senior secondary academic subjects from at least two of the following domains:

- English and Languages
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Mathematics, Science or Technology
- Creative Arts.

The academic learning component of the Standard Level course has an emphasis on the development of literacy, numeracy and information communications and technology (ICT) skills for the workplace, in addition to personal development activity and industry learning.

The course is designed for students interested in moving directly into work or further vocational education at the completion of secondary school. The course is nationally credited as a Certificate II in Work and Vocational Pathways, providing training for employment in a range of industries and/or further study.



Two-way learning enabled students to share many cultural experiences during the 2018 Induction program

Personal development

The personal development program involves students in goal-setting in their Personalised Learning Plans, planning and reflecting on community service and leadership experiences (150 hours over two years). In 2018, the scope and range of experiences was successfully expanded, with students participating in a wider array of experiences designed to enhance their self-confidence, leadership, teamwork and awareness of other cultures. Activities that held noticeable impact for students were:

- personal projects: land, language and culture
- sports training and matches
- reconciliation activities: public-speaking and event-management
- fundraising for the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia and the national men's health program, MoVember
- cultural camps
- teaching culture through workshops for others, and sharing traditional dance with audiences
- GRIP leadership conference
- Wiy Yani U Thangani Women's Voices Project
- Keys for Life driver education program
 participation in the FASD awareness-
- raising march
- Gibb Challenge bike ride writers' workshops.

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 use their Personalised Learning Plans to set short-term 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 is the organising framework for industry learning:

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

In 2018, students were involved in the 13 industry learning programs.

- First Aid training (HLTAID003)
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Certificate II Resources and Infrastructure
- Certificate II Leadership
- Horticulture with the Wesley College
 grounds team
- WEX Program Careers in Government.
- Building and Construction with Fencing Concepts
- Building and Construction with Reno and Retro
- Modelling with Jira Models
- Teaching (PE) at Wesley College
- Hospitality at the Yiramalay kitchen
- Acting and Performance with BIGhART theatre company
- Residential Indigenous Science Experience (RISE) at the University of Melbourne.



Students jumped into the 2018 Induction program with enthusiasm

Senior Years Preparation Program

This year saw the development and successful endorsement of the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School Senior Years Preparation Program. The curriculum focuses specifically on meeting the expectations described in the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians and is modelled on the Senior Years Learning Framework in that learning occurs across three circles: academic learning, personal social learning and industry learning.

The curriculum is focused on developing competency in core skills in the areas of literacy, numeracy, humanities and science, and IT with carefully tailored units of work which seek to engage and re-engage students in learning through a familiar context and grounded in Aboriginal ways of knowing.

The personal social learning component of the curriculum is designed to develop our students' self-worth and self-awareness as well as their strategies in self-regulation, working in teams and working independently. The Health and Physical Education curriculum also has a strong focus on developing positive student health and wellbeing, and explicitly teaches the students about harm minimisation.

The Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum is mapped to the curriculum to further enhance this. In addition to the curriculum in the formal academic time throughout each day, there are numerous opportunities across the rest of the residential program for students to develop their personal skills and abilities through community contributions, and opportunities in the performing and visual arts, sport, leadership and mentoring.

Induction Program

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School experience starts with a three-week Induction Program in the Kimberley. Consistent with the aspirations of the overall program, it is grounded in twoway learning, with on-country activities designed to foster the development of self and introduce students to the history, culture and language of local communities.

New Year 10 level students to the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School live and learn alongside Wesley College Melbourne Year 10 students, together exploring the similarities and differences of their life experiences.

In 2018 we saw the highest number of students take part in the Induction Program to date, with 166 students completing the program. In 2018, the Induction curriculum was re-written and updated with explicit competencies to be achieved in the academic, personal development and industry domains.

The interdisciplinary nature of induction provides scope to include an experiential learning approach, which is well-suited to the contexts of the school. This new approach to induction increased the quality of the program and enhanced student relationships and measurable outcomes. Through the year students were involved in:

- working closely with local elders to learn about bush food, and cultural and community arts
- competing together in mixed teams in the Kimberley Cup sporting competition, and the Central Kimberley Football League

- numerous interactions with local organisations and businesses in the fields of community, tourism, health, agriculture, arts and education
- on-country learning with local community members, to learn about hunting, fishing and swimming, and by exploring locations of geographical and cultural significance
- community service activities such as working at the opening of the new accommodation event at Yiramalay, and volunteering at primary schools in the region
- personal development experiences such as Youth Mental Health First Aid and education around managing emotional health
- working side-by-side in industry experiences on-site at Yiramalay in the areas of grounds and maintenance, kitchen services and cleaning
- performing together and sharing talents in the community event – Yiramalay's Got Talent.

SPORT

In 2018, Yiramalay students have participated in a range of sports and other activities that promote engagement with the wider Kimberley community.

The Gibb Challenge has proven to be so successful that it is now a permanent fixture on the Yiramalay calendar. The Challenge is a 60 kilometre bike ride completed over five days on dirt roads through rugged terrain in the Kimberley. The Gibb Challenge raises 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 Gibb Challenge.

The Gibb Challenge provided our team of students with opportunities for engagement with the wider Kimberley community, picking up life skills along the way. Students demonstrated legendary levels of tenacity and discovered inner strength through their participation, gaining the respect and admiration of their teammates, competitors and locals, who pledged to support students with work experience and apprenticeships. 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.

We hope to participate in the Gibb Challenge next year with two teams.

In addition to blitzing the Gibb Challenge, 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 50 students and 13 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 Yiramalay had some very good results.



AFL CHAMPIONS

Yiramalay combined with St Mary's College

> MOST VALUABLE PLAYER NETBALL

Penny Donnan

NETBALL CHAMPIONS

Yiramalay Girls

RUNNER UP MOST VALUABLE PLAYER BASKETBALL

Jayden Landers

RUNNER UP MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AFL

Mario Rex



Clockwise from top: 2018 Gibb Challenge participants engaged with the wider community for a good cause; Yiramalay's netballers celebrate their 2018 Kimberley Cup Championship win; Yiramalay's footballers celebrate their 2018 Kimberley Cup Championship win.



Two-way learning enables Yiramalay and Wesley students to learn with and from each other

REGISTRATION AND FUNDING



Learning on country takes many forms at Yiramalay

Re-registration and ongoing government funding arrangements reflect strong support for the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School.

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 was subsequently approved for two further three-year periods and in 2018 was approved for the five-year period ending on 31 December 2023.

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is reliant on both state and Commonwealth government funding, along with donations and funding from philanthropic and other organisations and individuals.

Commonwealth government funding

A Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth Government funding was previously provided under Special Circumstances provisions of Commonwealth legislation largely due to early difficulties registering the Studio School within the Commonwealth system, given that the school operates across state jurisdictions.

The new needs-based funding model, introduced by the Commonwealth 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 on an annual basis.

State government funding

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

ABSTUDY funding

ABSTUDY funding commenced in 2013. This is specific funding for Indigenous students, provided under provisions of the federally-funded Centrelink program. Due to the vast difficulties of the application process, in 2018, Centrelink only approved 60% of our Aboriginal students. Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School works closely with families assisting them to provide the necessary paperwork, which must be faxed, as well as providing telephone communication and information to support the ABSTUDY application process. Due to the complications, isolation and lack of communication for many of the families, the school is missing out on much needed funding and support from government.

STATE AND COMMONWEALTH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

2018 overview

Academic programs

| | Year level | Number of Students | Graduated |
|--|------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Senior Years Learning Framework – Advanced Level | Year 12 | 1 | December 2018 |
| Senior Years Learning Framework – Standard Level | Year 12 | 9 | December 2018 |
| Senior Years Learning Framework – Advanced Level | Year 11 | 1 | Ongoing |
| Senior Years Learning Framework – Standard Level | Year 11 | 16 | Ongoing |
| Senior Years Preparation Program | Year 10 | 26 | Ongoing |

Induction programs

| | Year level | Number of Students | Graduated |
|---|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Yiramalay Induction Program – 4 Mar to 25 Mar | Group 32 | 25 | March 2018 |
| Yiramalay Induction Program – 9 May to 30 May | Group 33 | 34 | May 2018 |
| Yiramalay Induction Program – 8 Jun to 29 Jun | Group 34 | 30 | June 2018 |
| Yiramalay Induction Program – 15 Aug to 5 Sep | Group 35 | 39 | September 2018 |
| Yiramalay Induction Program – 12 Oct to 2 Nov | Group 36 | 38 | November 2018 |



New student accommodation was opened in May

Key student outcomes

Achievements for 2018:

- Continued excellence in school attendance and retention of Aboriginal students.
- Measurable increase in the successful completion of competencies (outcomes) in the Senior Years Preparation Program (Year 10).
- Continued improvement in student health outcomes – reduction in smoking and other drug taking, improved sleep, improved physical fitness. The development of the new Health and Physical Education curriculum across the school, along with participation in school sporting events, helped students to set goals and improve health.
- Demonstrated improvements in levels of confidence when speaking and presenting in public forums including Reconciliation Week events, Induction briefings for Wesley College families and school Mob Meetings (assemblies).
- Demonstrated improvements in student readiness to take up new opportunities within the wider community including involvement in the Wesley College Glen Waverley Senior School musical, Gibb Challenge bike ride, Kimberley Cup sporting competition and local girls' and boys' football competitions.
- Measurable improvement in student engagement with their Personalised Learning Plans through the implementation of a whole-school approach. This approach focussed on wetekly reflection, goalsetting in the academic, personal development and industry circles of the SYLF, and celebrating the achievement of personal goals with both mentors, teachers and parents/guardians.

- Demonstrated readiness to work in groups and teams to design, plan and teach cultural workshops. These workshops had higher levels of impact than seen before, with students taking the lead and willingly sharing culture, language and tradition with pride.
- 90 per cent of Years 11 and 12 students completing their First Aid certificate.
- One student completing the full Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure.
- One student completing the full Certificate II in Leadership.
- Two students modelling for a high-profile indigenous agency based in Melbourne.
- New opportunities to share and perform traditional dance and performance including at the Wilum Centre for Indigenous Cultural Arts in Melbourne and opening of the new accommodation in the Kimberley.
- The election of two students to leadership positions as Year 12 Prefects.
- Demonstrated readiness to learn and engage in two-way learning – with the majority of Year 11 and 12 students acting as leaders for learning on country.
- New opportunities for industry experiences hosted by Monash University and RMIT University, alongside experiences in partnership with Wangki Radio in the Kimberley, and other business and higher education providers.



Inductions during 2018 brought together students to learn with and from each other



'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 2018 was an inspiration to us all.' Helen Drennen

Reporting

At the conclusion of each Induction Program, students are awarded a Certificate of Completion if they have achieved full attendance over the three-week program and successfully completed the required competencies. Accompanying this, is a report that outlines levels of competence, strengths, and constructive feedback in the academic, personal development and industry domains.

In accordance with government guidelines, students receive a written report each term. These reports focus on academic progress, pastoral care and personal growth, records of industry experiences and an activity log of personal development hours (community service, leadership activity and involvement in school life). Reports are sent home to parent/guardians and are followed up with opportunities for both students and parent/ guardians to discuss the report and progress of students with Yiramalay teaching and pastoral staff, both in person and via phone.

Staff professional engagement

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is governed and managed by Wesley College Melbourne and, as such, reflects the staff professional engagement and ethos of the College. The Studio School attracts, develops and retains excellent teaching and general staff, and promotes staff engagement through several avenues including internally run programs, attendance at local activities, events and conferences, and opportunities for interstate and international professional development. In 2018 this included but was not limited to the Australian Independent Schools WA conference, Second Indigenous Education Forum and Positive Education in School Conference. THE STUDIO SCHOOL ATTRACTS, DEVELOPS AND RETAINS EXCELLENT TEACHING AND GENERAL STAFF, AND PROMOTES STAFF ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SEVERAL AVENUES.

Staff professional development

Teaching staff at the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School are expected to engage in professional development through the Teacher Learning and Collaboration Program each year. This program links up the teaching teams across the two sites of the school via video technology, and together they work to improve pedagogy and explore strategies for improving and enhancing engagement. In 2018, teachers worked together with experts in the areas of:

- supporting Kriol language speakers
- understanding language and literacy
- Positive Education, FASD and trauma-informed practices
- project-based learning
- concept-based learning
- the Eight Aboriginal Ways of Learning Framework
- Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum
- Creating a Makerspace for Learning.

Teaching staff have either completed or are working towards their Certificate 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 while acquiring the skills in assessing other people's progress through a course. This qualification is needed to become a professional 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, Youth Mental Health First Aid, driver training, cultural awareness and support with literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.

In 2018, focus was again given to developing individual professional development plans for staff and realising this through the programs offered both within, and outside the school. Connections and partnerships with universities throughout Australia continue to be 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 2018 Aboriginal people made up the majority of residential staff working in the program, and others were employed as cultural mentors, teachers' assistants, administration staff and general staff. THROUGHOUT 2018 ABORIGINAL PEOPLE MADE UP THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTIAL STAFF WORKING IN THE PROGRAM.





Teaching staff at Yiramalay engage in professional development through the Teacher Learning and Collaboration Program

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School continues to flourish with the mutual commitment of both Wesley College and the Fitzroy Valley community.

Both communities look toward building on its established foundation and continuing to evolve cross-cultural learning across Australia in 2019.

The purpose of the Yiramalay Foundation is to seek, generate and distribute financial resources to the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School – an innovative cross-cultural education program that is geographically split between Melbourne and the Fitzroy Valley. The Foundation's responsibility is to search out and connect with potential and current supporters in the Wesley community and beyond, whose values align with those of the Studio School, and are interested in positively impacting the lives of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and their families.

The Yiramalay Foundation extends a sincere thank you to those who have donated to the program in 2018. Without this support, we would not have been able to support more than 60 students, including 10 Aboriginal Year 12 graduates and 15 Aboriginal staff and alumni who participated in the program in 2018. Financial contributions raised through

the Yiramalay Foundation have made possible educational experiences for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants – including mentors, community members, staff and – of course – students.

In 2018 funding was received for scholarships and special projects including:

- professional development of Indigenous staff
- ongoing support for Yiramalay alumni progressing to further education, training and employment
- refurbishment of staff houses
 the Gibb Challenge, a 660-kilometre team relay event that raises community awareness and money for charity, in which 10 Yiramalay students and four staff participated
- the Kimberley Cup, the annual interschool sports carnival hosted by Broome Senior High School, at which 60 students supported by 10 staff participated
- travel for parents of Yiramalay students to Speech Night in Melbourne.

The Yiramalay Foundation has continued to work with trusts, foundations and corporations, while at the same time, seeking out new funding partnerships. We are grateful to The Portland House Foundation, The Kimberley Foundation, Fancy Films and Nuline Transport, which have continued their loyal and generous support. In 2018, we welcomed the support of the Nordia Foundation. The Foundation would also like to acknowledge the support of the Commonwealth Government and Western Australian Government for their ongoing funding of the program.

The Yiramalay Foundation expresses sincere gratitude to the alumni, parents and other supporters from both the Wesley College and the Fitzroy Valley communities and acknowledges their generous contribution, including Joanne Crosby and Carey Lyon, and Peter Clark SC (OW1963) and Danuta Clark.

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is well adapted to its environment and, like the long-lived boab tree, here for the long haul

The Yiramalay Foundation also extends a sincere thank you to the Friends of Yiramalay for its significant support. The Friends of Yiramalay and its founding members Romy Moshinsky and Georgie Raik-Allen (OW1987) have worked hard to facilitate community engagements programs, and are organising the third biannual tour for 23 Wesley parents and others to travel to the Kimberley with an overnight stay at the Studio School in 2019. The Friends of Yiramalay also fundraise to support Year 12 Yiramalay students attending the Formal, with current parent, Mojdeh Pleasants providing hands-on support to students attending.

The Yiramalay Foundation is grateful for the guidance and support from the Chair of the Yiramalay/ Wesley Studio School Foundation Board, Kevin Oscar, and its members, Ned McCord, Dr June Oscar AO, Anthony Aiken, Peter Harrison (OW1969) and Cameron Moroney.

Finally, the Yiramalay Foundation thanks Dr Helen Drennen AM for her unparalleled contributions to the Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School. Dr Drennen is the pioneer who was brave enough to breathe life into a program that has proven innovative, challenging and transformational for all involved. After 15 years of service, Dr Drennen stepped down as Principal of Wesley College at the end of 2018, but will continue to serve as a consultant for the Wesley/Yiramalay Studio School, to its great benefit.

In 2019 and beyond, the Wesley/ Yiramalay partnership will begin to explore possibilities of expanding the studio school model so that more communities might benefit from cross-cultural educational partnerships like Yiramalay. We look forward to updating our community and our funders as our collective aspirations evolve.

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