



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day was on 4 August and carried the theme: 'We are the Elders of tomorrow, hear our voice'. One of the many benefits of our Kimberley site being located on Bunuba country – country that has been carefully cared for by generations of Aboriginal people – is that with the help of Elders, senior community members and partners, we understand the crucial impact that culture, family and community play in the lives of our students. The starting point for all students is a learning environment that is on-country. Our incredible setting lends itself beautifully to noticing and then embracing, supporting, and building on the strengths of each of our students through rich lenses of culture, resilience, and traditional knowledge. Our teachers and leaders critically examine how we educate – what we teach and how we teach it – carefully directed, and re-directed by the voices of our Aboriginal mentors, and cultural advisors.

In this week's Mob Meeting we examined the character strength of **grit**. Grit is our ability to persist and persevere, to keep going towards something we are passionate about over a long period of time. For decades, Aboriginal Elders have shown great resolve and have sacrificed and fought for advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights. Today, our young people are making significant sacrifices to achieve an education grounded in two-way learning. Take the examples of our Year 12 students who, in the spirit of their Elders, are pursuing their final year of education against a backdrop of disappointment, such as missing highly anticipated events such as the formal, and milestones like final experiences in Melbourne. Not to mention the loss of Induction students coming to the Kimberley to meet, live with, lead and teach; it's been quieter than usual both in the Kimberley and in Melbourne, especially without our Northern Territory students. Our normal rhythm has been different for a while.

We mustn't forget our Year 10 and 11 students who have also left their own country and families to be hosted on Bunuba and Wurundjeri land – what better examples of children exhibiting grit and determination to reach their full potential. The spoken voices of Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School students are always loud and passionate, pride in their culture and identity are part of their enormous strength. These are the Elders and leaders of the future – strong on culture, strong on country.

Felicity Pearson, Director (acting)



Term 3 images

We are the Elders of tomorrow, hear our voice.

Starting as a Year 10 student in Induction 4 in 2013, I never imagined I would still be part of the Studio School community after almost eight years. My time at school opened many doors and opportunities, including a basketball tour to the US and modelling. I was encouraged and supported by teachers and staff to get out there and try new experiences that helped me to grow in confidence and find my strength. Finishing Year 12, traveling to many places and meeting new people were highlights of my time at school. I was also supported in the years after I completed Year 12 and now work at the Kimberley site, waiting for COVID restrictions to be lifted so that I can return to Melbourne to complete my studies.

My time at Yiramalay has given me an opportunity to experience the best of both worlds and cultures, being on country in the Kimberley and in Melbourne. I understand both perspectives and want to influence and lead others walking along the same path. Now that I am working with students who were my age when I started at Yiramalay, I try to be a positive role model in the same way that others modelled positive behaviours to me. I want these students to be heard and supported to follow their dreams in the same way I was.

Kahlia Rogers (OW2016), Residential Mentor



Kahlia Rogers (OW2016) with Khyona Yakai

A valuable experience for everyone

Last Friday we loaded up the troopies and camper trailer and headed to Derby. After setting up camp at Derby High School, we drove to the oval where Garnduwa were set up to run a girls football clinic. To build cohesion, the sides were divided and Yiramalay students mixed in with Derby students and older Derby Tigers players. This made for a game of high intensity and it was great to see such remarkable skills exhibited after a long break between events due to COVID. The event really showcased not only the sporting talent of students but their capacity for resilience and persistence in these uncertain times. It gives me hope for the future knowing that these young people

will shoulder the responsibilities for their communities and will be future Indigenous leaders. Congratulations to Jirrwirlyny Jefferies from Karratha who was voted Best on Ground and given a prize pack for her extraordinary efforts.

To strengthen the connections of this team of young students, we managed to fit in some sightseeing on Saturday at the Derby markets and jetty before we returned to Yiramalay.

All in all, the trip was a great success and a valuable experience for everyone!

Toby Tracy, Community Engagement Officer



Jirrwirlyny, Kelsey, Nineisha and Shakaya celebrating after the game



Garnduwa's girls football clinic in Derby



Jirrwirlyny (right) with her winning prize pack

Training ground for aspiring leaders

Part of my role is to be creative and engage our students and staff in after school and evening activities that build connections and relationships in our community. Our evening Yiramalay basketball competition sessions, running since the start of Term 3, have been the best medicine for COVID times and tap into a passionate pastime here.

Most of the students and staff on site have participated in four teams and the round robin competition has seen all

teams compete against each other. The competition has engaged students in after school sports and highlighted the basketball talent at the school. It has also shown a spotlight on students who have excelled at leading their team and who will carry this skill into their future and their community. Like most things at Yiramalay, these sessions are not only encouraging positive community spirit, they also serve as the training ground for our aspiring leaders.

Ryan Ali-Akil, Program Activities Co-ordinator



Teams from the evening Yiramalay basketball competition sessions



Why I enjoy working out at Yiramalay

I have been with Yiramalay for almost nine months now. I am originally from Melbourne but have been living in Fitzroy Crossing for the past two years.

I love it up here and can't see myself going back to Melbourne anytime soon. I am grateful to be a Residential Mentor at Yiramalay, it's a great place to learn about culture and the land we live on.

Tim Ismaili, Residential Mentor

I enjoy our camping trips out on country; my favourite place we have visited is Diamond Gorge. Being able to help students develop into respectful, young adults is the most rewarding thing about my role as a Residential Mentor.

Camillia Rogers, Residential Mentor



Tim Ismaili with Camillia Rogers

This is a young person with a voice.

We've always admired and been inspired by the resilience and adaptability of the students in this program. The individual stories of students accessing the VCE and MYP this year serve only to increase these levels of admiration and inspiration. Year 12 VCE student and Yiramalay Prefect, Alena Landers travelled to Melbourne this term after a full term of remote learning in Term 2. She has taken a leap of faith not knowing when she can return home to friends, family and the warmth of Broome. Her goal, to study a double degree at Melbourne University of Nursing and Midwifery, is something she is determined to achieve. As a young leader, Alena is taking charge of her destiny. Making sure her voice is heard, and her opinions are considered.

Year 10 student, Banjo McIntosh has also shown tremendous courage through this difficult time. Banjo didn't return to Broome for the Term 2 break, instead staying in Victoria with grandparents and family friends. Most recently Banjo completed his subject choices for VCE Year 11. Banjo is considering a pathway in law. He is a creative and kind person with a sharp wit and tremendous intelligence. His eyes light up when he discusses matters of social justice and how he could play a role in helping to keep corporations and government officials, from further exploiting the rich natural resources around his home-town Broome in the Kimberley. This is a young person with a voice.

Jason Baird, Coen Wright and Kyhona Yakai, have all expressed quite clearly, their ambitions for the future. Jason intends to study Early Childhood Education at CDU in Darwin, Coen, Cyber Security at UWA in Perth and Kyhona, Nursing or related field in either Melbourne or WA. These students are our leaders and their voices have been heard. Their courage is tremendous as they make their way in the world.

Matt Watson, Deputy Director Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School, Deputy Head Learning in Residence - Melbourne



Banjo McIntosh studying with support from Yiramalay Mentor, Ayla Pearson.



Alena Landers preparing for her Geography SAC with Program Support officer Hannah Singleton



Year 11 VCE student Jason Baird working hard in the Hartnell Dining Room



Year 12 VCE student Coen Wright

Our students show GRIT

During our last mob meeting, we celebrated our young people, the influential leaders of the future, by acknowledging and celebrating their achievements. We introduced the concept of 'GRIT' and recognised that our students display it daily as they persist in achieving their academic goals despite the many obstacles they may face along the way.

Throughout this past fortnight, our students have had the opportunity to engage with various external opportunities such as broadcasting at Wangki Radio Station, interacting with Kimberley Health Services and going on-country with the Bunuba Rangers. Engagement with these organisations saw our students show grit as they were challenged within their 'stretch zones' to overcome the 'shame factor', writing and reciting their poetry on Wangki Radio. They also had the opportunity to work with the Bunuba Rangers to learn all about invasive weed and cane toad control – they even travelled under cover of night to read the cane toad 'front' in order to assess the problem. Furthermore, they visited the Health Services as part of the Health curriculum to learn more about sexual health and healthy relationships.

Students have reflected on their enjoyment when engaging in such a rich and exciting curriculum and are looking forward to next weeks' academic camps to Halls Creek/Purnululu National Park and the Dampier Peninsular.

Monique Fewkes, Head of Teaching and Learning



Students engaging with community



We are the elders of tomorrow, hear our voice

The theme means to me that we, as young adults should have a say in everything; instead of only listening we can speak up and be heard. It's important to have knowledge passed down to us so we can continue and pass it on in the future. A person who inspires me is my Nyanhj (uncle) Ralph. He inspires me with art, he is always encouraging and supporting us, wanting us to do our best. I want to have the knowledge from my elders, and strong and positive stories from the past to live with now and share in the future.

Lizaria Macale, Yiramalay Prefect Year 12

One of the most important elders in our community is my great grandmother, her name is Bidy Hunter. The reason I look up to her is because she has knowledge and wisdom of the land, language and the lore of our culture. We need to keep the culture alive by asking elders about the land and listening to their stories. I am a Nyungamarta and Karajarri girl. I thank my Nanna Anna and Dahlia Pigram in Broome, and my grandmother Helen Badal and her brother Ian Hunter for teaching me about their language and knowledge and passing it down to me, so when I get older I can pass it on to the other generations.

Tenisha Badal, Year 12

My great grandmother is an Elder who inspires me. She's a strong Aboriginal woman and she's always there. She grew up on Mulla Bulla Station, but was taken from our country as part of the stolen generation. She told me that when she was a kid she didn't even have school, opportunities or education. She only knew about bush until she got into her teens then she learned about *gardia* (Kriol term for white people) stuff. She taught herself how to read, right, talk proper English and how to cook.

When I'm an Elder I want my kids to look up to me just like how I look up to my mother and great grandmother. I really want to teach my kids and other kids my culture like cultural dancing (Wonga), Kija language, respect and life skills like hunting, fishing, camping, respect, kindness, cleaning, grit and empathy. I would love to take them back out on my family's country.

Seaniquah Farrer, Year 10

One more donut at the chocolate fountain

We would like to warmly welcome Philippa Leslie into the team at Yiramalay Kimberley. Philippa has a Certificate III in Patisserie and a Certificate III in Catering Operations where she trained in the preparation of savoury food. After working in many fancy hotels in Melbourne, Philippa comes to us from Flora Valley station where she was the cook.

Philippa has already formed great relationships with us all, and students have loved spending time with 'Pip' in the kitchen making unbelievable desserts and delicious treats. How lucky are we?! She is an amazing pastry cook and to have such a lovely person in the team is a treat – we are all a little worried about our weight though. Philippa – we'll be doing extra exercise during the day so we can have just one more donut at the chocolate fountain, that's for sure!

Felicity Pearson, Director (acting)

Important Dates

4-6 Sep	Open weekend for families including Parent/Teacher conferences	10 Sep	On-Country Day (Kimberley) – Excursion Day (Melbourne)
9 Sep	Classes finish (Kimberley and Melbourne)	11 Sep	End of Term 3 (Wesley College and Yiramalay Melbourne students)

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



Lizaria Macale with Camillia Rogers



Tenisha Badal with Kisharni Wungundin



Seaniquah Farrer getting her temperature checked by Jirrwirliny Jeffries



Students in the kitchen at Yiramalay welcoming Pip to the school.