

School Newsletter

Term 1, 2015



A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 2 will see many changes and new ideas to make Yirara a better place for the students to gain a good education.

We have recently been notified that we were successful in applying for funding under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS). This will enable us to build a girl's academy which will work in a similar way to the Clontarf Academy. We hope to commence this program in the near future.

Our Year 12 students are continuing to stay strong in their education. These are the first group of year 12 students that will graduate from Yirara College so we are putting a lot of effort into keeping them strong. Our latest project for them was to turn one of our classrooms into a year 12 common room for them to use during their recess and lunch breaks.

Since our last meeting we have had two articles in the Advocate. One article was in the Advocate about the Year 12 class and how well they are going (Page 6). The other article was about several of our students that took part in a literature workshop about their culture and these stories have been put together in a book (Page 6). This was a great achievement for the students that took part in these classes.

Several of our work-ready students have been working in different businesses around town. McDonalds is a registered training organisation that is helping our students to gain a Certificate in Hospitality and the students are getting paid for the time that they are there. We also have another student that has been working at the hospital as a translator for the sick. These sorts of opportunities are giving these students the chances to gain experience in the workplace and gain the rewards of contribution to our community.

Of course there is still a lot more work to be done to help make Yirara a better place for the students. The students that attend Yirara need support from the school and their families to ensure that they understand the importance of education. Our aim is to ensure that they have every opportunity to learn and to be trained so they are ready for work or further education so that they can give back to their own communities.

Roger Ashcroft, Principal



Fellas get a "Thank You" for working so hard.



Tara Kelly trying something new.....



Zac Turner getting help in the after school homework center.



Kaitlyn Armstrong and Mrs Lauren Wapling (Year 12 Teacher)
Working together

After School Homework started.

Started in term one was the first after school homework program.

All senior year students can come to the library every Monday afternoon to complete their work. There are different teachers rostered on each week, so a vast pool of knowledge and experience is available. One of the best things is afternoon tea is provided. So give it a go!!!!

You won't regret it.

a vast pool of knowledge and experience is available....

Yirara TV

Trying something new.

The other week we decided to try a new approach to how students present Yirara TV.

Instead of sitting on stools, we now have the students present the episode while sitting at a desk, the same way as in major TV studios. It was excellent seeing Zac enjoy the new layout as he showed his natural flare for acting and improvised on the fly.

It is not uncommon to need a number of takes till everyone is happy.



Steve and young Reece and Sheketta found working at a desk to be easier and not quite so daunting as they sit under those bright lights, microphones and focus on the teleprompter.



Ozzie Daylight, Gerrard Marks, Dylan Moore, Jeffrey Turner, Tremaine Daylight, Steve Silver and Nigel Ryder with some Acacia Hill Students.

Footy Clinic Visit Acacia Hill School

Acacia Hill Footy Clinic was held the other Friday by our Leadership Group at Acacia Hill Special School.

The Fellas were treated like Rock Stars as soon as they walked through the gate and nearly got bowled over in the rush.

Everyone had a great time and the fellas are looking forward to another session with their special friends.

Fellas involved were Ozzie Daylight, Gerrard Marks, Dylan Moore, Jeffrey Turner, Tremaine Daylight/Bolga, Steve Silver and Nigel Ryder.



Yirara Brumbies at Gillen Boar Camp



Senior School

There are four classes across Years 10, 11 and 12 to cater for all our students' learning needs.

Mr Packer teaches the *Work Ready* class, who have been preparing for the world of work through independent living skills, intensive literacy and numeracy programs.

Ms Denehey, Mrs Packer and Ms Wapling teach the *10/11 VET A and B* classes, who have begun their pathway towards the NTCET (Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training) with some Stage 1 Literacy and Numeracy courses and Personal Learning Plan. Ms Wapling, Mrs Packer, Mr de Tarczynski & Mr McLean also teach the NTCET class, who are continuing the journey towards Year 12 completion. This usually takes three years, so most students will be completing next year, whilst some will graduate this year. They will be our first ever Yirara Year 12 graduates, so we will have to celebrate in style!

Students have been offered a range of other courses, including Vocational Education and Training Certificates Agrifoods, Community Services, Information Technology and Retail. They also participate in The Duke of Edinburgh Award through Art, Cooking and Music.

Successful completion of these courses will gain credits towards their NTCET, so students have been working hard to achieve their full potential and earn the rewards of success.

As you can see Yirara have been working hard to create a fantastic set of learning opportunities for senior students and we are enjoying sharing the journey with the students through hard work, effort and teamwork. It's going to be a great year.

Mrs Packer
Ms Wapling
Ms Denehey
Mr McLean
Mr de Tarczynski
Mr Packer

Senior Teaching team

Term 1, 2015 AWARDS

Class Students of the Term

Gilbert Smith, Elijah Marshall, Francesca Joshua, Ernest Brown, Shannon Morton, Dorissina Silver, Brooke Kelly, Abraham Riley, Delvine Campbell, Crystella Campbell, Kaitlyn Armstrong, Maheilia Presley, Mark Fordham

Food Technology

Shannon Morton, Dorissina Silver, Rachel Richards

Broadcasting

Reece Raymond

Duke of Edinburgh Music

Derek Summerfield

Winning House

Flemming

Positive Behavior Award

Jeremy Katakarinja, Shannon Morton, Dorissina Silver, Rachel Richards, Abraham Riley, Lazarus Hall, Crystella Campbell

Christian Studies

Britannia Godilla, Shaun Campbell, Tessa Daniels, Kaylena Hodgson, Dion Pareroultja, Crystella Campbell, Zali Wilfred

Design Technology

Nathaniel Djana, Jeremy Katakarinja, Luciano Williams, Gavin Spencer

Music

Brittania Godilla, Jeremy Katakarinja, Francesca Joshua, Reece Raymond, Patricia George, Ashley Webb, Rachel Richards

Health

Valerie Wurramara, Shaun Campbell, Luciano Williams, Lofty Armstrong, Patricia George, Eltina Farrell

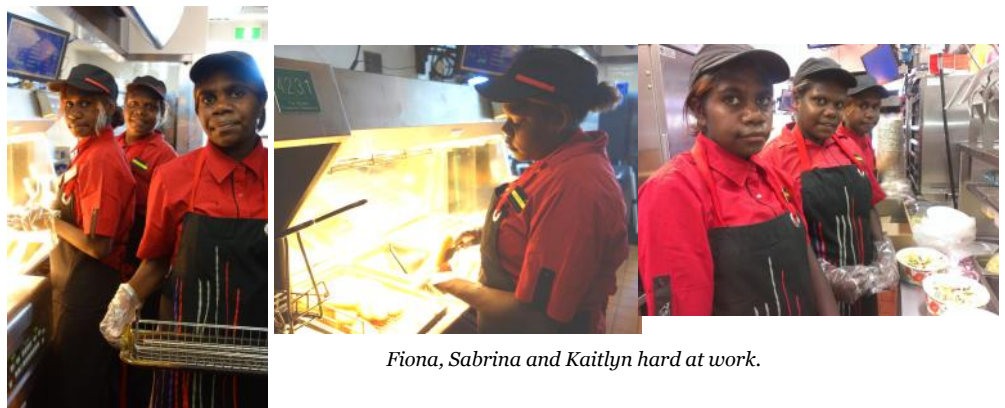
Working hard at McDonalds

Fiona Dixon, Sabrina James and Kaitlyn Haines have started their VETiS Retail certificate 1 at McDonalds. After completing their online induction and their Work Health and Safety unit they have started working in the restaurant kitchen every Thursday. They are being trained in using the fryers, cooking eggs, chicken, beef burgers, fries and making salads. They will progress to the cash registers and serving customers. Their training is ongoing, with a blend of on the job training in the restaurant and studying some online units towards

completing a Retail Certificate 1.

Katelyn has shown excellent leadership skills, assisting Fiona and Sabrina when required. The girls are working long days in the restaurant kitchen, 9am to 3pm, they are on their feet in a busy kitchen and managing very well with the fast pace.

Family had heard the news that the girls were working in the kitchen at McDonalds and dropped in for a feed and to see the girls working.



Fiona, Sabrina and Kaitlyn hard at work.

Annual Interschool swimming carnival

The Annual Alice Springs Interschool swimming carnival was held last term at the Town Pool. The following students represented Yirara in all events and some placed as follows:



Tara Kelly

Adelle Farrell

Kaitlyn Armstrong (4th in Freestyle, 2nd in Breast stroke)

Ozzie Daylight (4th = in Breaststroke)

Angus Hodgson (4th = in Breaststroke)

Crystella Campbell (4th in Freestyle)



End Of Term One Games Night.



Games night was lots of Fun.

The night just before we all went home everyone enjoyed having fun. After our shared dinner in the dining hall we all went back to the Chapel to try out some new games. We also managed to find time to play the good old favorites. Having videos to help show everyone how a game works really made things go smoothly on the night.

To finish off the fun night we watched Term One Yirara TV bloopers reel, it was a lot of fun seeing all the things we managed to share through out the term.



Trephina Campbell, Jennicka Inkermla, Tara Kelly, Crystella Campbell, Mark Fordham and Lewis Armstrong all played a part in writing and illustrating the book which was launched last night. Picture: PHIL WILLIAMS

Student book tells its cultural stories

Hannah Muir

EIGHT Yirara College students who took part in a week of literature workshops last year have written stories of their culture, culminating in a book that was launched last night.

Indigenous writer Ali Cobby Eckermann, who published her first book of poetry in 2009, was one of three mentors at the workshops.

Ms Cobby Eckermann said themes of culture were typical among Aboriginal people.

"It is very much about home and country and culture, that's quite a strong theme," she said.

The workshops were supported by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

"We shared a bit of our own writing and the process of that and why we want to record our stories," she said. "They did an amazing amount of work in the short week we were there."

The *Yirara Mix Book*, which

"It is very much about home and country and culture, that's quite a strong theme"

COBBY ECKERMANN

holds the stories and poems produced at the workshops, was launched last night at the Alice Springs Library.

"I'm just really thrilled that students get a copy of their book to take back and share with their family," Ms Cobby Eckermann said.

"Literature doesn't exist on community, the shops don't sell the newspaper, they don't sell magazines, it's always an important role to get books into Aboriginal people's homes."

"It's a beautiful production and I'm sure the families are going to be really proud."

Centralian Advocate, Tuesday March 17 2015



In the news...



Classmates from the first ever group of Year 12 students at Alice Springs school Yirara College.

Picture: SUPPLIED

These guys are in a class of their own

FOR the first time ever, Yirara College of the Finke River Mission has a Year 12 class.

The secondary residential college now has nine Year 12 students enrolled on its inaugural NT Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) program.

Yirara College principal Roger Ashcroft said he and staff were confident numbers would grow as the course becomes established.

"We are delighted and excited to offer the NTCET program to our students. It is a great achievement for Yirara College and we have worked hard to get here," Mr Ashcroft said.

"Year 12 is an opportunity that our students would not have if they were in their home community. It is certainly a benefit of boarding at Yirara."

It is early days for the program, for both staff and students.

"Starting and continuing Year 12 is in itself an achievement. It takes time and perseverance to complete the NTCET," Mr Ashcroft said.

"Teachers and staff are working hard with our first

class of Year 12 students to support them to achieve their goals.

"We are confident Year 12 will be a permanent feature at Yirara and we are encouraging and supporting our younger students to think about and work towards the academic and vocational educational training credits required for the NTCET qualification and Year 12."

While numeracy and literacy skills continue to be a focus in Year 12 studies, students also study a range of additional NTCET subjects.

Several students are even looking beyond Year 12 with university or a job with the police force among their aspirations.

Students attend Yirara College for numerous reasons and many of the students enrolled on NTCET are the first in their family to go to school much less complete Year 12.

To complete the NTCET, all students need at least three C grades in Year 12 subjects. Subjects include Integrated Learning I (Physical Education) and Integrated Learning II (Moving between Cultures).

Centralian Advocate, Thursday April 2 2015

Yirara College of the Finke River Mission

Yirara College was established initially in 1973 as a government secondary residential college for traditionally oriented Aboriginal students. Later in 1991 negotiations between Fink River Mission (FRM), the central Australian Aboriginal parent family client group, the Northern Territory Government and the Federal Government commenced with the aim of FRM assuming control of the college. FRM assumed control of the college in 1993.

Today Yirara College is a vibrant and busy community providing a wide range of teaching and recreational resources to its boarding students.