

# School Newsletter

## A word from our Principal

Term One - 2018



**Welcome** to the end of another busy term at Yirara College.

This term, we welcomed 12 male students to Yirara to participate in the MotoScouts program. This program is delivered off campus for 16 weeks, with the students doing a combination of theory and manual work.

The MotoScouts program is a Scouts NT initiative in conjunction with the Motor Trades Association (MTA) (NT) where participants will gain valuable employability skills and training by being part of a team building a Motorkhana-style car.



Participants have the opportunity to gain a Certificate I in Automotive, undertake driver training (in the Motorkhana car that they help build), obtain a White Card, first aid, financial literacy and cross-cultural training as well as work experience.



Each week they gain valuable life skills (as well as having a lot of fun) through the Scouts recreation program. If you would like further information on this program, please contact the pathways office at the college.



I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.  
3 John 1:4



The female students have now started on the Earthtec intensive program that was delivered to the male students last year. Yirara staff are working closely with Theiss to arrange support and mentoring for the ladies interested in this program.



All students are actively involved in the electives programs each afternoon and we thank the staff for the support, guidance and commitment in sharing this program. The students are learning a wide range of skills through this program that they can take home to share with their families.

Boarding continues to be a busy place. The sporting activities available for both male and female students is increasing, and we thank Mr. Tama and Mr. Mark for their support in this space. The ladies teams are doing well in their evening sport activities.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Basil Schild as college pastor at the beginning of term three. Pastor Basil may be known to some of you as he was a Pastor at the Alice Springs Lutheran Church for many years in the 1990's. Pastor Basil has been living in Darwin with his family and is looking forward to being part of Yirara College community.



I would like to thank the parents that have visited the college this term and taken the time to talk with college staff. It is a blessing to the college and a great support to the students to have parents and guardians being involved in college life.

On behalf of all staff, I take this opportunity to wish you all and very happy, safe and blessed Easter.  
Yours in Christ, Roger Ashcroft



# Christian Studies

## RELATIONSHIPS

with Family Staff friends BUILD community

**Christian Studies** lessons during Term one have been focused on Bible stories about God's relationship with his people.

That God loved the people of this world so much that he sent his son Jesus to die on the cross. Students were encouraged to build their lives on Jesus and share his love with others.

Class discussions were around respectful relationships and how they help to build a strong community at Yirara College and beyond.

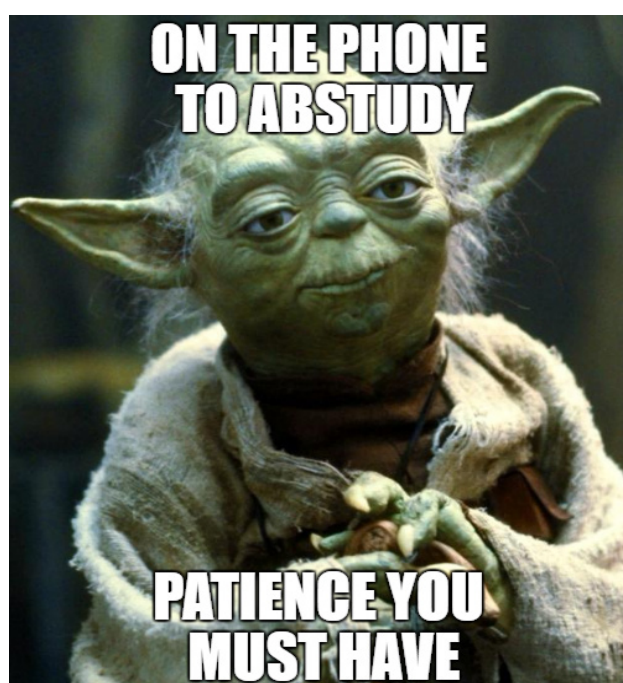


**Flexible Learning Centre** was rewarded with a mid-term excursion due to everyone working well together.

The fellas love seeing the big croc but were keen to come inside for the lizard and snake show.

Mathias was very brave and had Tom the python on his shoulders at the first opportunity he could.

Aloyiscois wanted to hold Tom but was hesitant to get up at first, however, with a bit of encouragement he conquered his fear and finished with himself and Tom smiling for the camera.



**Ronan and Linton made a bridge in STEM. They could only use tape, straws and a small amount of clay.**

**Their bridge tolerated 1.311 kg.!**



*If Music be the food of love, play on...*



This term our **Marimbas** have been re-awakened.

It has been fantastic to see the fellas learning how to play them, and we did not just stick to the Marimbas but expanded our learning to the keyboard and Jemba.

They had an exciting time !



## THAT MACRO-WORLD

Building our **senior students skills** is very important, this term they have been learning to use a microscope and how to prepare their own slides.

Next term they will need these skills as they explore that other world, the really, really small place we don't always see.



We are looking forward to Term two when several new things will be happening at Yirara. One of the new programs that will be running is a drone elective. Students will learn how to fly a drone.

**Sounds like fun to me.**



Art this term has been great, students have enjoyed a large range of activities. Here Reagan is learning how to draw a face.





We are very happy to announce our girls have won the 2017 VAMPtv People's Choice award for their "Yirara Girls Strong Young Women" video.

"These awards are in recognition of the hard work and dedication taken to produce fantastic school made videos and we are proud to be able to acknowledge your effort." Rod Balaam of VAMPtv.

The \$500 prize money will help our girls to achieve even more great things.

Well done girls!

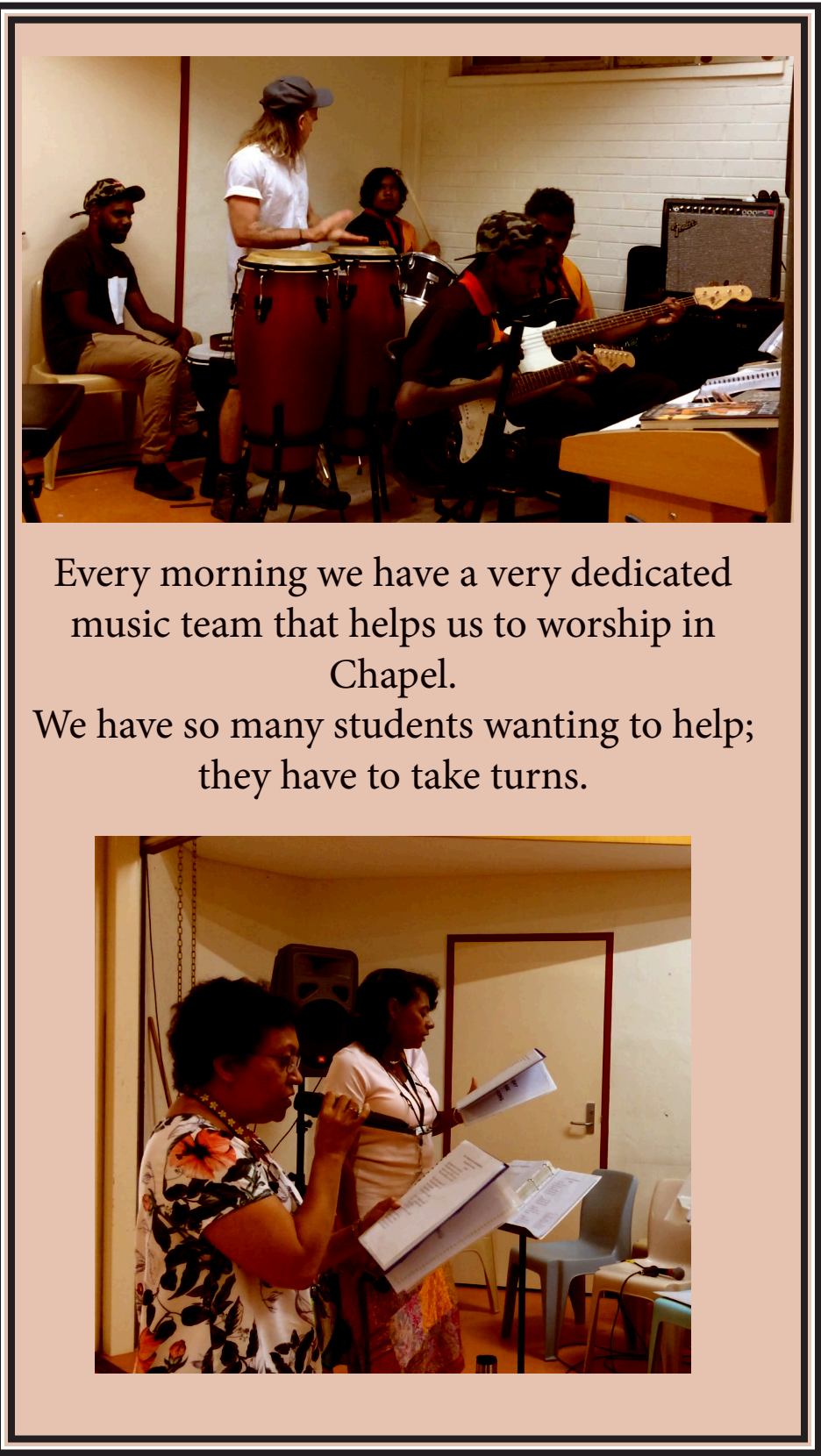


One of the projects our year 7/8 classes had this term was to see how fast plants grow.

Here Lisa Young is measuring and counting the leaves on her plant.



Our Principal Mr. Roger Ashcroft presenting the award to one of our Girls Academy coordinators Beverley Angeles in our end of term assembly.



Every morning we have a very dedicated music team that helps us to worship in Chapel. We have so many students wanting to help; they have to take turns.



Seniors are working towards completing Stage 1 Essentials English.

One component of this was short story writing – some well written stories focused on community whilst others were about personal experiences such as leadership camps as well as interstate trips.







**In art** this term students were busy trying all sorts of different materials. From drawing with ink and water colour pencils to mural painting and mixing primary colours to make skin tones and landscapes.

Many hidden talents amongst the entire school with a great effort made by the majority to try something new.



**In the library** this term we celebrated International Women's Day.

Students were given the opportunity to research black women in history and write a letter to their future selves, outlining their dreams, and aspirations for the future. Students learnt a great deal about the amazing achievements of women throughout history.

The library program has been a great opportunity for students to develop their library skills and to learn about exciting Australian authors such as Shaun Tan. Circulation numbers have increased, with students enjoying reading in their spare time and in class.

Term two will see the continuation of library programs, students will be given the opportunity to learn about graphic novels and to read fractured fairytales such as The Stinky Cheeseman and other Fairly Stupid Tales.







The Girls Academy hosted a special breakfast for two Commonwealth Games Para Athletes-Torita Blake and Melissa Tapper. The Athletes did some early morning stretches and games with our girls before joining them for a healthy breakfast.



In week seven, as part of their Leadership activities, our Year 7/8 Students hosted the KITES students from Sadadeen Primary School. They took them on a tour of the college, and shared their stories about attending and boarding at Yirara College. The girls done a wonderful job and the Sadadeen students really enjoyed their excursion.

This term our girls held a fundraiser at Woolworths, to raise money for our end of year trips. The girls sold raffle tickets for a \$100 meat pack, kindly donated by Woolworths. A big thank you to Monte for donating the meat pack and allowing us to hold the fundraiser. We raised over \$300 which is a fantastic effort. A big thanks must go to the girls who helped on the day along with Miss Anne-Marie.



As a part of our Girls Academy support programs that we run, we had two sleepovers for all the students which they enjoyed very much. Every one enjoyed our early morning BBQ breakfast, staff and student morning teas and our end of term awards morning tea.

Next term is going to be just as busy, and Miss Anne-Marie and I would



like to wish the girls a happy holiday with their families, we hope to see them all back for term two.



What a great start it has been for the Girls Academy program. We had over 50 students as part of the program in term one.



As part of our intensive education program, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress delivered the Deadly Choice program to all of our Year 7/8 girls. They explored a range of topics from chronic diseases and harmful substances, to healthy relationships and leadership and self esteem. To support the theory learning we took the girls on excursions to the Dialysis Unit, DASA, YMCA Rock Climbing where they listened to stories of survival and healing from the women of the Tangentyere Women's Safety Program.



Five of our senior girls attendanced the International Women's Day breakfast which was held at the Double Tree Hilton. They listened to the guest speaker, Andrea Mason's inspirational story of strength, courage and hope. Our Year 7/8 Students attended the International Women's Day gathering on the town council lawn which was hosted by the IAD Arrernte Women's Elders Program together with the Arrernte and Central Australia Aboriginal Strong Women's Group. The girls went around to all the information stalls, and gathered a lot of information on all of the organisations and service providers who support women.







"It has been an amazing year"

so far at Yirara Clontarf Academy.

This term we saw a few staff changes with Charlie Lawson taking reigns as Director and Cyril Rioli returning to work along with Gibson Turner as our third member.



We have had a jam packed term with special events nearly every week. Some of the main highlights were our QANTAS partner visit where seven of our fellas were lucky enough to spend the afternoon with QANTAS ambassador Adam Goodes and CEO Alan Joyce along with 21 staff members followed by an invitation for the launch of their new Dreamliner painted by local Anmatyerre woman Emily Kame Kngwarreye. Following this initial introduction, our senior fellas were then given the opportunity to do a tour of the Alice Springs Airport and learnt about what jobs were available within QANTAS.



Early this term we held our annual Imparja Cup Cricket Tournament with teams from Centralian Middle School and Tennant Creek coming to Yirara for the day. It was a fun filled day with everyone trying out a new sport.



Our year 12 Leadership camp this term was a huge success with ten Centralian Senior College members and seven from here at Yirara. We focused on SMART Goal setting, leadership and team building activities as well as listened to Clontarf Alumni who are in the work force.

Throughout this term during contact times we looked at healthy smoothie recipes as well as water safety. Our



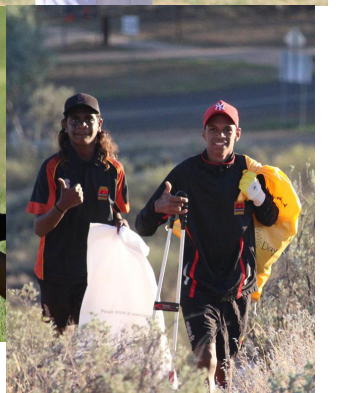
year 7/8 group were put to the test when we checked their swimming ability against a Bronze Medallion equivalent course where they learnt CPR, swimming rescues and a massive 400m swim. They all did an excellent job.

Also this term 16 of our Yirara Clontarf fellas volunteered their time early one morning to clean up ANZAC Hill. It was an awesome effort put in with our lads filling around ten bags of rubbish and bottles for recycling.



On top of all this we continued to run football each week playing games against Centralian Middle School, Centrlian Senior College Clontarf Academies, St. Josephs Flexible Learning Centre and St. Phillips College.

We hope to see everyone back week one of term two after a well earned holiday.





**Welcome** to the new senior students and continuing students who have taken the leap into commencing VSS qualifications. This term the choices have been, community services, rural Operations, Racing/Stablehand, music, skills for vocational pathways, tourism and agrifoods.



We have also had block intensive weeks of CaLM (conservation land management) Resources and Infrastructure Girls group.

Well done for staying strong and committed to your programs!

Two other exciting opportunities happening in Pathways are the Moto Scouts program and a cadetship with the NTPFS.



The Moto Scouts program is a 16 week program as part of the Scouts NT initiative in conjunction with the Moto Trades Association and Yirara College.

The students will gain employability skills and training as well as team building a Motorkhana-style car.

*"....team building a Motorkhana-style car."*

They have the opportunity to do a Cert I in Automotive, driver training, obtain a white card, first aid, financial literacy, cross-cultural training and work experience.



**Well done** to Tara who has been accepted into a two year cadet program with the NTPFS (NT police, fire and emergency services). Tara's career goal is to be a police officer to help and support people in communities.

This program includes a Certificate II in Community Engagement and a Certificate III in Business. This program also includes an outdoor adventure and leadership camp.

Visits to Indigenous communities to learn about cultural and community engagement and opportunities to do volunteer work. Also doing training with the fire and emergency services.

**Drive safe** has been delivering six lessons a week this Term for students who are on their learner license. Students are completing competencies to work towards their Provisional license.

Term two will also offer Theory one for students who are 16 and ready to get their learner license and start driving lessons.



#### 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 Finke 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. v1.2