

# School Newsletter

## A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term Three - 2017



Term three has been an exciting term with lots of activities to keep the staff busy and the students engaged and learning. This term our afternoon electives program has been successful and students were able to choose electives to participate in and learn new skills. Electives included hairdressing, media, cooking, art, clock making, band, gym, wildlife, and childcare.

Our EarthTec program led by Civil Train was an enormous success with eight senior fellas learning skills associated with



earth machinery and construction. We are proud of the way the fellas presented themselves and their participation in the program was commended by Mark their trainer. Many senior



school students continued to excel in diverse programs through our pathways program. Congratulations to Cristella Campbell on obtaining her provisional license this term.

The term started full on for staff with a week of professional development. The focus was on delivering numeracy and literacy, cultural awareness and trauma. I would personally like to thank all our staff this term for their commitment and support. It has been a great term.

On a sad note, we say goodbye to our Deputy Principal Karen Jessen who is returning home to be closer to family. We welcome Greg Miller to this role in term four.



During the mid-year holidays, two of our music staff attended a Guitar STEM program. This program involves building guitars from base materials using science, technology, engineering and mathematical methods of learning. Five of our students are now involved in this



course and we look forward to seeing the finished product (see page four).

During the holidays the Deputy Principal's family and Jann and I went and visited families to drop off school reports in the

following communities: Tenant Creek, Elliott, Mataranka, Katherine, Jilkminggan, Borrooloola and Burketown. Thank you to these communities and families for welcoming us.

NAIDOC week was celebrated in Week 7 and our students were joined by students from Barker College and Yipirinya School. Focus on NAIDOC week this year was 'Our language matters'. Thank you to Yirara Staff for their involvement in this special day.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to be involved in God's work here at Yirara this term and we pray for continued blessings on the College, staff, student and families.



We thank God for His blessings on Yirara. Roger Ashcroft--Principal.







### **Ceramics elective**

This term we started a ceramic elective on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Not many of the students have ever used clay before so the first couple of lessons involved some experimenting and a lot of language that they became proficient in using. Students asked where clay came from they were taken on an excursion to the clay pans. We then went into the Araluen Art Centre to look at the ceramic art on display. During the elective classes I showed the students pictures of different things they could make with clay. They also chose to experiment with the potting wheels which was a lot of fun.



### **In Our Dormitories**

In our dorms there is a vibrant after school program with so many things for our students to join in with including games of volleyball, life skills, talking about family and community. Most of the students participated which is really pleasing.

This term we were happy to welcome the new volunteer ladies from Germany and USA. Aliceia Kern, Sophie Schutt, Kelsey Haseley are working with our students on campus and Hope Rust helping out at the Lutheran Community Care office in town but joins in the fun here on campus after work and on the weekends. Photo:- *Leawanna Knouth is enjoying a special birthday with friends.*

### **Archery elective**

The archery elective saw senior students travel to the Alice Springs archery range.

Participants were trained by professional archers on how to correctly use a bow and arrow and shoot at targets on the shooting range. Aspects of the training included, the correct use of protective equipment such as arm and finger guards, correct technique to load and shoot an arrow, and safe navigation of the shooting range.

Students and staff enjoyed this elective. We thank the Alice Springs archery range for their support.



### **Eco-science:**

On the morning of Friday of week three, 7/8A, 7/8B and the senior school went to the eco-science fair.

Most schools from the Alice Springs area were there too.

Students participated in a number of workshops including health, nutrition, anti-smoking, water conservation, endangered species, land conservation and management and impacts of fracking.

Students participated in activities in each workshop to help make them aware of the issue being discussed.

A great time was had by all Yirara students.





# Walk as a refugee

The **Christian Studies** theme for term three explored the many reasons for people to walk as refugees.

Students read Bible stories and viewed animations from both the Old and New Testament about refugees. People who had to move to another country because of famine or drought, persecution, war or conflict.

The stories of Abraham, Naomi and Ruth, Joseph, Moses, Philip and Peter showed students that God continued to love and care for his people even in hard times.



Students also learned more about refugees in the world today and how the Australian Lutheran World Service with their Yirara Church offerings, has supported the work.

Students had the opportunity to 'walk in someone else's shoes' when they carried buckets of water on a bush track from Spencer Hill to the Telegraph Station on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August.



## Words from our CLO Department



The Community Liaison Office (CLO) is excited to be taking the new vehicles out for their first trips to bring the students back to school.

The new coach has us traveling in comfort and looking deadly! While the four wheel drive Canter Truck allows us to get down the dirt roads.



We hope to do more and more of our own travel in the future so keep an eye out for us in your community!

## How are you getting back to school?

Like our Facebook page and get up to date information on travel arrangements, where our Community Liaison Officers are and keep in touch.

Just search for:

Yirara College—Travel arrangements and Community Liaison Page



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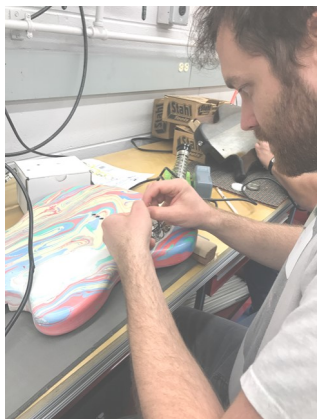
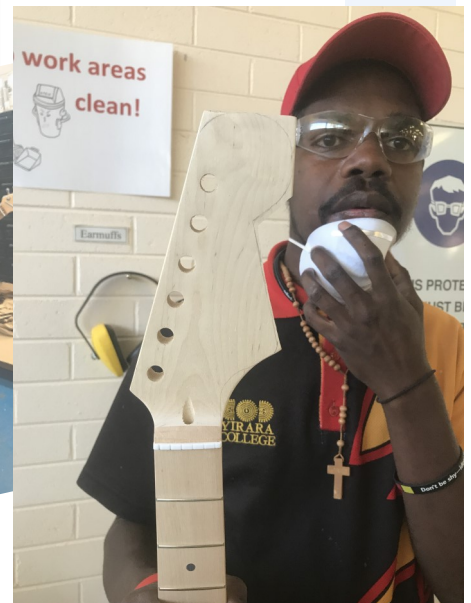




# Build Your own Guitar

## Guitar Program

Two of our staff travelled to North Carolina in the USA to take part in a guitar building program at the end of term two. They came back excited with what they had learned and we now have started our own STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), guitar building program at Yirara. We have four students in the program at the moment and when they complete it, they will take home their own electric guitar.



# Yirara Community Open Day

Yirara  
COLLEGE



Experience the Culture of Yirara!

Join us on Sunday 5th November for a day full of entertainment, activities, sports, and food.

Come meet our students, see the awesome work they are doing, and take a tour of our campus.

Come be a part of our community!!!

Yirara College, 470 South Stuart Highway, Alice Springs.

Open Day will start at 12:30pm with a finish time of 3:30pm.

For more information please contact Thomas Coelli on 8950 5626 or email [Thomas.coelli@yirara.nt.edu.au](mailto:Thomas.coelli@yirara.nt.edu.au).



## Term 3 & 4 Electives:

We run a exciting electives program where students chose activities that take place every afternoon. We aim to provide students with valuable future skills.

### Our Term 3 Electives were:

**Girls Academy , Tennis, Wildlife Ranger, Clontarf, Welding, Ceramics, Clock making, Childcare, Computers, Basketball, Band, Media, Guitar building, Weights, Hairdressing, Cooking, Horse Studies, Chess, Art, and Groove Fit.**

*Students had the opportunity to learn lots of new skills and work with many staff.*



## *Student awards for Term Two - 2017*

### **Flexible Learning Center**

Literacy Matthew Robinson  
Maths Kiana Pareroutja  
Visual Art Kody O'Riley  
Teacher: Mr Steve Carli-Seebohm

### **Middle School Class 7/8A**

Language Studies Jerral Kelly  
Literacy Claudia Oliver  
Maths Lucas Peckham/Ross  
Science Jerral Kelly  
Christian Studies Jerral Kelly  
HPE Jerral Kelly  
Visual Art Roderick Arthur  
Computer Skills Warren Long  
Teacher: Mr Graham Clancy

### **Middle School Class 7/8B**

Language Studies Tycan Bostock  
Literacy Natasha Scrutton  
Maths Kaye-Marie Bundy  
Science Kaye-Marie Bundy  
Christian Studies Leroy Jones  
HPE Leroy Jones  
Visual Art Kaye-Marie Bundy  
Computer Skills Leroy Jones  
Teacher: Mr Zane Smith

### **Middle School Class 7/8C**

Language Studies Travis McCormack  
Literacy Calessio Rankine  
Maths Krishelda Price  
Computer Skills Krishelda Price  
Christian Studies Calessio Rankine  
Visual Art Calessio Rankine  
HPE Travis McCormack  
Science Serena-Lee Brokus  
Teacher: Ms Katharine Smith

### **Middle School Class 9A**

Language Studies Tamika Holmes  
Literacy Jesse Butler  
Maths Connie Kirkman  
Devina Thompson  
Christian Studies Tamika Holmes  
Visual Art Dorrie Oliver  
HPE Devina Thompson  
Science Devina Thompson  
Teacher: Mrs Roxanne Egan

### **Middle School Class 9B**

Language Studies Janita Riley  
Literacy Terrance Abbott  
Maths Britannia Godilla  
Computer Skills Anthony Nish  
Christian Studies Janita Riley  
Visual Art Ida Palmer  
HPE Shane Inkamala  
Science Danielle Campbell  
Teacher: Mrs Jann Ashcroft

### **Senior School Foundations A**

English Preston Millar  
Maths Michaela Daniels  
Christian Studies Michaela Daniels  
Science Derek Thompson  
Teacher: Ms Andrea Hardy

### **Senior School Foundations B**

Literacy Jeremiah Limerick  
Maths Jeremiah Limerick  
PLP Arthur Wesley  
Science Aaliyah Herbert  
Teacher: Mr Michael Jantzen

### **Senior School Essentials**

Essential English Joella Holmes  
Essential Maths Jamal Lynch  
Stage 1 PLP Junior Reiff  
Christian Studies Cary Small  
Science Jamal Lynch  
Teacher: Mrs Elizabeth Bishop

### **Senior School Consolidation Class**

Stage 1 English Ezra Tanami  
Stage 1 Maths Patricia George  
S1 Integrated Learning Patricia George  
Stage 2 IL PE Patricia George  
Christian Studies Aaron Palmer  
Stage 1 Workplace Practices Alex Shannon  
Stage 2 Integrated Learning Cristella Campbell  
Consolidation PLP Patricia George  
Teacher: Mrs Linda Warner

### **Senior School – VET Awards**

Cert II Media Mishai Wollgorang  
Cert 1 Racing & Stable Hand Aben Sandy  
Cert II Rural Operations Isiah Larry  
Cert III Agriculture Aaron Palmer  
VET CDU Music Morgan Cockyell  
Work Experience Joella Holmes  
Cert I Agri Foods Carey Small  
Presented by: Ms Donna McAskil





# Clontarf happenings



In term three we have continued our ongoing relationship with Ingkintja Men's Health Clinic at Congress by visiting them every Wednesday afternoon for our elective program. We've been learning about woodwork and building A-frames as well as linking in with other key health and social services such as Mental Health Association of Central Australia (MHACA), Healthy Lifestyles Program at Congress, Right Tracks Program, the NT Police etc. We have also been working with Daryl Little from the Central Australia Health Service to continue address the social and emotional wellbeing of our students.



Early in the term we had a successful and positive camp with Barker College at Hamilton Downs Youth Camp. We had great fun interacting with and learning about the Barker College boys in activities such as basketball, cooking, card games and rock wall climbing! However nothing beats a great conversation around a nice warm campfire!



The junior students also went on an epic trip up to Katherine for the annual Clontarf Foundation Northern Carnival, where 18 different academies from Alice Springs to Darwin and even out west to Broome and everywhere in between to play football for two big days. Although we had a few setbacks with illness and injury to our players as well as late nights and early morning starts, the fellas all had a blast and were solid ambassadors for Yirara College and our academy. The heat in Katherine was relentless so the hot springs there was a welcome relief for our fellas (the hot springs weren't even hot!)

We have also been visiting Karnte Camp Community Centre throughout the term to cook and serve breakfast to the residents of the town camp. It has been a very positive experience for our students as well as for the people living in Karnte Camp. We want to build a strong and positive relationships with Karnte Camp and



surrounding town camps with the aim of potentially getting new enrolments to Yirara College. Our young people are learning the great value in serving and caring for others in the community. We want to thank Tangentyere and the Karnte Camp Community Centre as well as Yeperenye Shopping Centre and Woolworths for their ongoing support.







# Girls Academy



Term three has been a busy term for Girls Academy. We began the term with a 'welcome back' staff and student morning tea, and then we starting getting organized for our Senior Leadership Camp at Tilmouth Well in week four.



Our camp was a great success, with our ladies participating in some great workshops facilitated by Tangetyere Women's Family Safety Group and then using the key themes to create a deadly music video: 'We Are Connected'.

We had two barbecue breakfasts, a middle-school sleepover, a big Quiz night fundraiser, and lots of free time and activities in the academy after-school, at recess, and lunchtime. On Tuesdays after school, we collaborated with Centralian Girls Academy activities with them such as Go Karting, movies and Ice-cream, golf course driving range, and a scattegrories competition.



Our strong young women's elective had our ladies learning important issues and service providers such as Congress (Tobacco Program), Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Services (Young People's Rights) and Relationships Australia (Intrinsic Values). We also went to Hetti Perkins aged care facility once a week to visit and spend time with the old women. The girls looked after the ladies by brushing their hair, painting their nails, and having a yarn with them.



## Senior Class Excursion

In week eight, Foundations A and B, and the senior class of Yirara, had a beautiful drive out past the West MacDonnell Ranges to Glen Helen. It is one of the six permanent water holes along the Finke River. What a beautiful day and we got a nice grassed area to set up camp and start our fire. Everyone walked down to the water past the magnificent red sandstone ridges.

The water was so cold and the sun so warm. A few little ducks were swimming in the reeds. After some time near the water, we had lunch, which Miss Andra had kindly organised. The fellas got those kangaroo tails cooking and helped with the BBQ. There was plenty to eat; sausages, kangaroo steak and tails, bread, salad, fruit and juices. Everyone just had a good relax and time away from the classroom; listening to music, talking and resting.

*"We saw water, birds, ducks, fish, green water, cold water." "I liked the water and the Gaps looked amazing."*

*"The sand was warm. The wind was blowing. The water was too cold. A sunny day and it was great."*



## So many new things are happening in Pathways...

Senior students continued Vocational Education Training in Secondary Schools (VSS) qualifications, choices included are Agriculture, rural Operations, agrifoods, racing/stable hand, skills for vocational pathways, tourism, resources and infrastructure, music and media.

Students commenced training in a VSS resources and infrastructure program this term. They moved from learning how to operate machinery on a simulator to operating a real

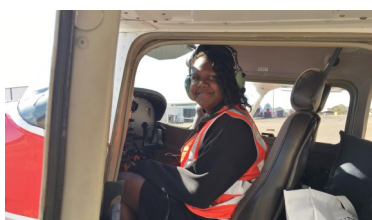


excavator, and also attained their white card, working at heights and confined spaces tickets. The young men

participating in the course were dedicated and have developed valuable skills.

The tourism group experienced tourism first hand at Hermannsburg with Ntaria students as tour guides and we got to be the tourists, exploring historical buildings and listening to stories. The highlight was going to see 'Jesus footprint' and drinking the Holy water.

A group of seven student pilots flew to Alice Springs as part of their trip across the Northern Territory and Queensland in



three light aircrafts to build up command flying hours they have named 'Run-a-way North'. Some senior students heard their

stories and why they chose this career pathway at the Alice Springs Airport. A tour of the planes was included. The ladies loved being in the pilot seat!

Mishai Wollogorang won a placement at the RAAF Airforce Indigenous Youth Program in Darwin. His career goal is to be a helicopter pilot and this was a fantastic opportunity. He travelled to Darwin and experienced living on the air base, going on tours, physical training sessions, travelling to Air Services Australia and discussed defence forces recruiting. Mishai said he had the best time and a great experience. A big

thank you to his Darwin host family.

As part of units towards the Certificate III in Agriculture senior student Aaron Palmer and Steve Sambo took part in the Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin shows as part of the



pastoral futures program. This program offers pathways for students who want to go into the pastoral industry. Students spent eight weeks preparing livestock for the show series. At



the end of the program Steve won the encouragement award and Aaron won third place for cattle handling and was invited to the Rockhampton Beef week in 2018.

A group of females ranking from Commander and down

from the Navy came to visit the senior ladies. The ladies took them on a tour of the college, showed them the boarding space then played a game of basketball. The ladies had an opportunity to sit in groups to talk to the Navy ladies about their job and what they enjoy. The Navy ladies asked the girls about their communities and life at Yirara. They all shared morning tea together. The navy said ladies would love to come back next year and continue developing relationships with our students.



This term Yirara senior students who are 16 years old had another opportunity to get their Learners licence. We had a group of 10 students take the theory one course and all passed. ACME driving school 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 licence.

## 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