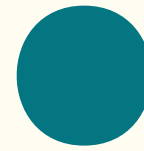


Yirara College Newsletter



Splashfest 2025

Under the desert sky, Yirara College held the 2025 Splashfest Swimming Carnival on 14 November, uniting remote communities from the north through to south Australia.

Students splashed through races and relays as house colours filled the poolside. For our mob, it was a chance to build skills, learn water safety and have fun with friends.

By the end, tired smiles showed that Splashfest was about confidence, culture and community while growing together in the water and not just focusing on winning but having a go and doing our best. Congulations to this years winners, Duguid.



CLASSROOM NEWS



LEARNING ON COUNTRY

It's been another rich term of learning on Arrernte Country. Students explored storytelling through sand, paint, and written language.

We have used native fuchsia from Yirara-atula to make soap and investigate its cleaning properties in a science experiment while engaging in conversations about identity and what shapes who we are.

YEAR 10 - FOOD PREP

Year 10 Stage One in IL Food students visited Desert Knowledge to explore catering practices and interview the Treat Me Good Café owner about food preparation and presentation.

The following day, they put these skills into action at a Year 12 appreciation brunch, styled with a vibrant 'Mama Mia' theme.

Congratulations to all involved on an outstanding event!



KINTORE CAMPUS

This term, three students spent a week in regular Yirara classrooms to experience what daily boarding school life is like.

While in Alice Springs, we also collected new music equipment—thanks to CAYLUS—for the college and for young people in the wider community.

At Walungurru, students have been working on:

- Geography
- Fractions, angles and money
- Drawing and painting
- Leatherwork



CLONTARF



It was a huge finish to 2025 for the Yirara Clontarf Academy, packed with highlights and achievements.

The Clontarf Foundation supports young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to build their education, discipline, life skills, confidence and future employment opportunities.

Term 4 highlights included:

- A Top End pick-ups trip to Borroloola and Robinson River, with the boys leading us on fishing and exploring adventures.
- Dean Raymond and Norman Wheeler representing the NT in the Clontarf State of Origin in Melbourne.
- Our major Year 12 school trip to Cairns featuring scuba diving, a glass-bottom boat tour, Skyrail through the rainforest and an NBL game.
- Five students achieving their NTCET.
- Farewelling our director of three years, Andrew “Richo” Richardson, as he moved to lead the Wagga Wagga academy.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in 2025. We proudly farewelled many Year 12s and 13s—your presence will be greatly missed, and it’s been a privilege watching you grow.

All the best for life after school. For those returning, enjoy the break—we’ll see you in 2026!



Inkarta Basil, Yirara Chaplain

I wish everyone a Peaceful Christmas.
A Christmas-time that is not just for having party,
But for making Peace.
Because that’s what the Christmas Angels want,
That’s why they sing
About Peace on the Earth.

When they sing to the Shepherds
They are not singing about Peace in Heaven
They are singing
About Peace
On the Earth

And when baby Jesus grew up, he must have
remembered them, and so he said :

Blessed are the ones who make Peace,
they will be called the children of God

Christian Studies



In Middle School, we explored the idea of the Bible as the History Book of the Universe and why it matters today, learning that it contains 66 books written by more than 40 authors over 1,500 years.

Senior School focused on the theme of Belonging and how it shapes our identity, including visits to local churches to compare their similarities and differences.



Year 9 Maths

In Term 4, 2025, Year 9 students explored a range of concepts including perimeter, circumference, radius, and the area of rectangles, squares, and triangles using non-standard units.

They also applied the four arithmetic operations (\times , $+$, $-$, \div) and were introduced to terms such as the associative and commutative properties.

Students additionally used the online program Reflex to strengthen their fluency in addition and multiplication.



Duke of Ed

For several years we've run the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a youth development program that helps students take responsibility for their goals, build community involvement, develop resilience, gain life skills, and broaden future opportunities.

The Award has three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold each focusing on Skills, Physical Recreation, Service and an Adventurous Journey.

Over the past year, students joined a range of activities, from automotive maintenance and band sessions to improving footy skills, and volunteered at assemblies, chapel services and with Clontarf.

This year, three students earned their Bronze Certificate. Congratulations to: Orlando Rubuntja, Rahkarl Kerr and Latrell Norman.



Female Boarding

What a way to finish 2025!

Term 4 is always full, with end-of-year events and Seniors Formal, bringing families together to celebrate our students' achievements both in and out of the classroom.

Our annual female boarding camp took us to Adelaide, and it was an incredible trip. From camping in Coober Pedy to visiting the pandas at Adelaide Zoo, each day brought a new adventure.

We also travelled to Tanunda to mark 150 years since the departure for the Hermannsburg Mission, where some of our girls were able to reconnect with family who had also gathered for the event. The students behaved beautifully and represented the college with pride.

As we wrap up the year, I want to thank our staff, students, and families for your support and dedication. It's been a busy but rewarding year, and we have much to celebrate.

I hope you all find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the holidays with loved ones. Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming all the girls back in 2026!

Head of Female Boarding – Robyn Stowers





2025 Graduates

- Marita Riley – Borroloola (NT)
- Erika Ashby – Walgett (NSW)
- Colleeta Drover – Lake Nash (NT)
- Licardo Nuggett – Minyerri (NT)
- Rahkarl Kerr – Robinson River (NT)
- Latrell Norman – Borroloola (NT)
- Tyrell Godilla – Elliott (NT)
- Orlando Rubuntja – Kalkaringi (NT)

NTCET Graduates 2025

This year, an entire senior class, Senior Class C successfully completed their Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET). This is an outstanding achievement and a milestone for these students.

This is the largest group of NTCET graduates Yirara College has ever had in one year, an incredible milestone!

Despite challenges with travel, motivation, workload, family responsibilities, timetables, teacher changes, and more, these students persevered and earned their 200 credits.

Each took their own path, but all finished with pride and a well-deserved sense of accomplishment.

Congratulations to the Yirara College 2025 NTCET graduates! 🎉



Dean receiving the Mister Shaun Community Service Award 2025

Flexi Centre Fun

Since the Flexi Centre opened in Term 2, 2025, it has been a great success.

Students love coming in to try different learning approaches and have especially enjoyed craft, sewing, building, and other hands-on projects.

The Flexi Centre has quickly become a supportive, uplifting space that contributes to the mental and emotional well-being of our students at Yirara College.



FROM MR WES

A Great Term to Finish the Year!



As Term 4 draws to a close, we reflect on another wonderful and fulfilling season at Yirara College. Our students, staff, and community have shared in many memorable experiences that have strengthened our connections, deepened our learning, and celebrated our shared journey in faith and education.

Boarding Camps: Adventures and Memories

Our boarding students enjoyed two fantastic end-of-year camps that will long be remembered. The male boarding students embarked on an exciting journey to Coober Pedy, exploring the unique underground town, learning about opal mining, and enjoying plenty of fun along the way. Meanwhile, our female boarding students travelled to Adelaide, where they experienced city life, cultural activities, and time for friendship and reflection. Both camps were wonderful opportunities for our young people to grow, learn, and celebrate the achievements of 2025.



Farewell to Valued Staff

This term we also say farewell to two much-loved members of our Yirara family.

We thank Mr Andrew Richardson from the Clontarf Academy for his years of dedication, mentorship, and encouragement of our young men. His commitment has made a lasting impact on many lives.

We also say goodbye to Miss Papa from Stars, whose warmth, care, and guidance have supported and inspired so many of our young women. We wish both Mr Richardson and Miss Papa every blessing in their next chapters.

Welcome to New Faces

At the same time, we are excited to welcome Mr David Hope and Miss Cathryn Zarnke to our teaching community here at Yirara. We look forward to the energy, expertise, and passion they bring, and we know they will be wonderful additions to our team.



Blessings for the Holidays and the Year Ahead

As we conclude Term 4, we thank God for His guidance and protection throughout the year. We pray for God's richest blessings and safety for all our families over the holidays.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for a new year of learning and growth in 2026!

In Christ, Mr Wes.- Principal.



End of Year Seniors Awards 2025

We held what you could call our mini End-Of-Year Awards ceremony. We celebrated our NTCET students and senior school leavers who are finishing their time at Yirara.

Due to sorry business, a number of our students have left Yirara early, so we will be holding another End-Of-Year Awards ceremony in Term One 2026.

We are very proud of our eight students who earned their 200 points for their NTCET. Congratulations Guys!



Art

Year 9 students completed one-point perspective digital artworks based on Yirara corridors.

Cecelia Namatjira's piece began with a corridor photo, which she transformed using perspective lines, layered outlines, and cool and warm colour contrasts.

Students were also inspired by the Bindi Digital Art Prize exhibition and enjoyed voting in the People's Choice Award.

Year 7-8 Art classes have been designing and sculpting "Extraordinary Creatures" in clay, sparked by a creative visit to the Reptile Centre.
Lee-Anne Young & Priscilla Pearce – Art Teachers



Seniors Formal 2025



Yirara
COLLEGE

YIRARA COLLEGE

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Female Boarding: 08 8950 5731

Community Liason: 08 8950 5602

Reception: 08 8950 5644

Male Boarding: 08 8950 5601

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