

# YIRARA COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER



## MALE BOARDING

It's been a bright start to the year in Male Boarding, with Top East and Top West dorm upgrades well underway.

There's more to come, but it's great to see things taking shape.



Our new juniors have settled in quickly, supported by our returning fellas, houseparents and the Clontarf team, creating a warm and welcoming feel.

Despite the rain and humidity, the pool was a favourite, along with bike rides, games and plenty of sport. Weekends brought movies, bowling and trips to the town pool.

Term one has flown by, and we're excited for what term two will bring. Wishing everyone a relaxing, well-earned break!



## SHARING LANGUAGE CLASS

Exciting news in our Sharing Languages program! We've welcomed Kaytetye as a new language, adding to the rich cultural learning across our school. Students are enjoying getting to know their new teachers and LSOs after recent class changes, while staff are also embracing the opportunity to learn and celebrate different languages and cultures together.



# WORDS FROM MR WES



Rain is usually a blessing, but too much can create challenges. The start of the year was slow, with flooding and road closures affecting student returns. Friends from the Western Desert faced long, difficult journeys, and some were unable to attend school for the term.

Yet challenges bring out the best in people, and it was inspiring to see our community's resilience as students gradually returned. Programs ran smoothly, and classrooms buzzed with activity.

We were also fortunate to welcome two new teachers over the Christmas break: Mr Stuart Crickmore and Mr Phil Clarke. Their passion, care, and dedication to our students were evident throughout the term.

Joining us this year in key leadership roles are Mr Steve Sanders as Director of Operations and Projects, working full-time on Yirara's planning, and Ms Kim McHugh as Director of People and Capabilities, bringing years of education experience from Brisbane.



Keep an eye on Yirara's social media for updates on our master planning and preparations for the next 50 years. Renovations in Male Boarding have begun with Top R, followed by Bottom R and P dorms, with large-scale upgrades to Female Boarding to follow.

We thank Michelle Swan and the NIAA (National Indigenous Australians Agency) team for their partnership and support during these changes.

I pray for safe travels and God's blessings for all our students and families over the Easter season, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back soon. As we enter this special time of reflection, may the hope and promise of the resurrection inspire us all with renewed faith, fresh beginnings, and a positive spirit as we prepare for Term 2.

God bless,  
Mr Wes Meurant, Principal.

## 2026 Interschool Volleyball Carnival.



In Week 7, our students proudly represented the College at the 2026 Interschool Volleyball Carnival. With 19 juniors and 20 seniors competing, their teamwork shone through, with junior teams finishing 3rd and 4th, and a senior team placing 4th overall.

Competing against schools from across Alice Springs, our students showcased great skill and spirit. We look forward to more sporting opportunities this year, well done, Yirara!

## Flinders University

Flinders University has partnered with Yirara College to support student health and wellbeing. Each term, two dietitian students work with the College to assess and strengthen the nutritional environment.

This term, Stella and Kelly developed a report, Mapping the Nutritional Environment of Yirara College, offering valuable insights and opportunities to further promote healthy choices.

We thank them for their contribution and look forward to welcoming the next group of students.



## Tackling Smoking



Members from CAAC, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Kaleel, Rohan, Demi, Keely and Jeremiah have been leading weekly smoking awareness sessions with our students.

Using hands-on examples, they help demonstrate the real impacts of smoking and vaping on our bodies and to those around us.

Many students were especially surprised to learn about "popcorn lung" and its link to vaping.

## Closing the Gap

This term, students participated in 'Close the Gap' Day, learning about its significance through yarning circles and discussing how they can help make a difference.

The day included music from staff, a barbecue lunch, and a fun trivia session about the Indigenous staff at Yirara, which students really enjoyed. In the afternoon, STARS and Clontarf organised football and basketball games.

It was a fun & educational day for all, as we learned what it means to close the gap. - Kiera Heffernan.





## TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS

Despite a rain-soaked term disrupting activities and camps, the boys remained positive. Highlights included leadership, senior and middle school camps, indoor sports, morning walks by the Todd River and Emily Gap, footy when possible, and engaging activities that kept everyone involved and learning.





## A VISIT FROM U RIGHT SIS?

This term, we had the privilege of taking all the junior girls on a Week 5 camp. During the camp, they enjoyed a MasterChef cooking challenge, created personalised pyjamas, held a python, had a visit from U Right Sis?, played some golf, and took part in many other activities.

It was a fun-filled week where students built connections and made wonderful memories.



# Senior School



Senior School has had a positive start, with students settling in well as they continue to work towards their NTCET and VET goals.

Our Student Representative Council is now up and running, building leadership skills, student voice and setting a strong example for others. In Week 5, students took part in Senior Intensives and focused on assessments and key learning.

It's been great to see such positive attitudes, as we look forward to many more exciting learning opportunities throughout the remainder of the year, keep up the great work!

# Science Class

This term in Science, Year 7 and 8 students explored topics related to Space, including the planets, the Moon, and the seasons.

They also learned ways to drop an egg safely, how to conduct experiments and use equipment correctly.



# From Ingkarta Basil

IN YIRARA CHAPEL WE HAVE A NEW PRAYER.

IT IS FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW IN CHAPTER 25:

IN THE END  
JESUS WILL SAY  
COME IN!  
COME WITH!  
BECAUSE I WAS HUNGRY  
AND YOU FED ME  
I WAS THIRSTY  
AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK  
I WAS IN A PRISON  
AND YOU CAME TO SEE ME  
I WAS NAKED  
AND YOU GAVE ME CLOTHES  
I WAS HOMELESS  
AND YOU TOOK ME INTO YOUR HOME  
I WAS SICK  
AND YOU TOOK CARE OF ME.

MATTHEW 25



# End Of Term 1 Student Awards



## YIRARA COLLEGE

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