



 AISWA

## Future Footprints

2021 Term 4





## FROM THE TEAM

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The Future Footprints Program ended 2021 with a little over 400 students in 17 participating schools. With 62 students graduating this year, the alumni total is almost at 700. This year saw multiple new initiatives, beginning with a successful series of PL events through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries PALS program, in collaboration with Catholic Education WA and Department of Education we reached nearly 200 teachers on embedding Aboriginal histories and cultures in the classroom. In the April school holidays FFP worked with AngloGold Ashanti and Curtin University to run a “Mining and the Lands” STEM Camp for 11 First Nations young women. In term 3 and 4 we welcomed a Year 11 student from Christ Church Grammar School on a work experience program in administration.

We once again ran a wonderful Welcome to Country at Burswood Park for more than 250 students by Uncle Danny Ford, and piloted a new online format for the Careers Expo, in partnership with Year 13 and alumnus Scott Wilson. FFP hosted a ‘stage’ that brought 8 First Nations superstars in front of tens of thousands of young people who tuned in online. The student council also went online, with a focus on ‘racism’ in schools, which lead to a series of student-led workshops conducted in five schools. The Year 12 graduating students attended a ‘Night at the Museum’ themed sundowner celebration at WA Musuem Boola Bardip, with a beautiful keynote by Aunty Sharon Wood-Kenney.

The AISWA Future Footprints team were invited by the Firelight Group to consult on the Indigenous Education Programs for the Yukon First Nation Education Directorate, Canada, as well as met with the Hon Minister Ken Wyatt, to discuss boarding and Indigenous Education. Congruent with the national Indigenous Voice initiative the team undertook its own community consultation efforts to ensure local, regional, and remote voices are informing the direction and focus of the AISWA Future Footprint Program and to make sure it is targeting educational support that is important to their lives.

In this newsletter, we like to look back on the year and celebrate the achievements of 2021. Wishing everyone a safe and festive holiday season.







## WELCOME TO COUNTRY 2021

This year we ran our annual Welcome to Country at Burswood Park on the banks of the Derbarl Yirrigan. We were thrilled to be able to run this event just two weeks out of a Perth COVID lockdown. Danny Ford Senior and his wife spoke beautifully about the significance of kinship and Country, Kate Reitzenstein (AISWA Language Consultant, Teaching and Learning) spoke with staff about growing the language options in their respective schools, and Wesley College graduate Charlie Mallard, now a qualified Youth Worker from Geraldton, travelled down to share insights and advice about adjusting, coping and managing life and learning at boarding school, the post-secondary school transition and resilience. The annual Welcome to Country is one of our favourite events of the year!







## EMBEDDING ABORIGINAL HISTORIES AND CULTURES: RECONCILIATION THROUGH THE PALS PROGRAM

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AISWA Future Footprints was lucky enough to partner with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Catholic Education Western Australia, and the Department of Education to bring together a series of Professional Learning (PL) events for teachers and school staff across the three education sectors. A fantastic time was had by all which showcased the PALS program, successful school projects, as well as local and interstate Aboriginal organisations and resources.

It was amazing to work with more than 170 teachers and school staff over the 3 days, with PLs held at the WA Museum Boola Bardip, the Wanneroo Civic Centre, and the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse, as well as participating in touring museums and an exciting experiencing of Cape Naturaliste from the perspective of a Traditional Owner.

We would like to sincerely thank Boola Bardip Elder Irene Stainton for her Welcome to Country at the Perth launch, the team from Koomal Dreaming at Cape Naturaliste, and Aunty Sharon Wood-Kennedy at Wanneroo. These events would not be possible without the support of our working team, particularly PALS Project Office Corinne Fogarty, nor the guest speakers at each event; Professor Cheryl Kickett-Tucker (Curtin University), Mikayla King (Aboriginal Education Solutions), as well as all those schools that presented and shared their PALS journey at these PLs. We would also like to thank all the exhibitors who participated in the expo part of the sessions, with special shout out to Clare Woods (Our Land Our Stories) and the Healing Foundation, who attended all three events!





## YOUNG WOMEN IN STEM - MINING AND THE LANDS CAMP

Congruent with the National Indigenous Australians Agency's (NIAA) efforts to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls to explore education and careers in STEM professions over the next ten years, AISWA Future Footprints was fortunate to collaborate with Curtin University and AngloGold Ashanti, to deliver a STEM Mining and the Lands Camp. Eleven girls in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 had the opportunity to explore and talk about potential post-school pathways in STEM with industry professionals and mentors. Held during the last week of Term 1 holidays, the girls took a tour of Curtin University STEM departments lead by the Centre for Aboriginal Studies, had Q&A sessions with STEM researchers, tour of the Alcoa Mine site, visit to North Dandalup Dam, social outing at Bridgetown, visit Talison Lithium's lithium mining and processing operation, visit to Greenbushes, conservation tour of City Beach with leading conservation and restoration scientist Professor Kingsley Dixon, tour of WA Museum Boola Bardip, tour through TAFE's CUT Mine a unique simulated underground mine used by students in surveying, geological assistant skill sets and mining exploration, AngloGold Ashanti activity, as well as Visit to St Catherine's College with Dandjoo Darbalung students. We are deeply grateful to Curtin University and AngloGold Ashanti for working with AISWA Future Footprints on this initiative.



## REGIONAL TRAVEL

Lisa and David have had an exciting year, with multiple trips out to community and AISWA's Aboriginal Independent Community Schools (AICS). This has included visiting the schools and working with the staff, including Aboriginal Workers, meetings teachers, parent and students, parent workshops in regional cities such as Broome, and presenting at the annual AICS conference in Broome. The team looks forward to continuing this work in 2022. We also had the chance to catch up with past students!

Thank you to the schools visited this year for welcoming Future Footprints into their communities; Nyikina Mangala, Yirimalay, Yiyili, Purnululu, Karalundi.

Lisa also had the opportunity to attend the Martu Youth Festival, hosted by Ngurra Kujungka, the Western Desert's first community-driven regional sport and recreation organisation. Six communities from the Western Desert Region, Parnpajinya, Warralong, Kiwirrkurra, Punmu, Nullagine and Parnngur come together for this 4 day event.





## BROOME CONFERENCE 2021

The Broome Conference is the peak professional learning event held each year for principals, leaders, teachers, and education assistants at Aboriginal Independent Community Schools (AICS) across Western Australia. It is an opportunity for AISWA to support the work that these schools do, the projects they share, their success stories, and the conditions in which they operate. After a warm Welcome to Yawuru Country, keynote presentations were provided by Dr Graeme Gower on the On Country Teacher Education delivered by Curtin University; Tom Wood from SDERA (School Drug Education and Road Aware); and our own wonderful Toni Tomlin (AISWA Lead Psychologist, School Psychology Service) presented on the recently revised [School Response and Planning Guidelines for Students with Suicidal Behaviour and non-Suicidal Self-Injury](#) – an important keynote and document that we encourage all schools ensure they are familiar with.

This was a great opportunity to present an overview of the AISWA Future Footprints Program and how it works to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people that schools away from home at 17 boarding schools in Perth. The second half of this presentation shared information about the [Partnerships, Acceptance, Learning, Sharing \(PALS\)](#) initiative designed to promote the reconciliation in the classroom and the newly created PALS Project Toolkit. While in Broome AISWA Future Footprints also met with Scotty Wilson to plan the Future Footprints and Year13 Careers Expo for 2021, while also visiting the wonderful [Magabala Books](#), as well as spending time the inspirational team and people at [Nyamba Buru Yawuru](#): we will definitely be back to learn more, a very sincere thank you for your time.



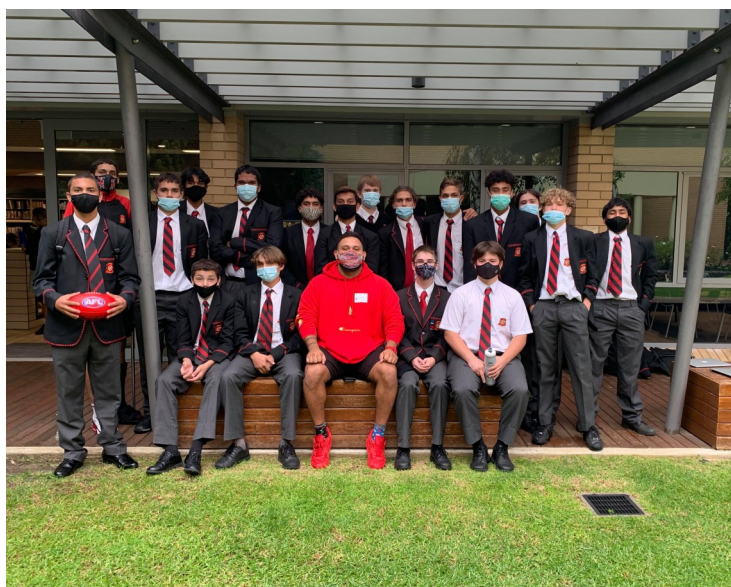


## CAREERS EXPO YEAR 13

During the three day online Year 13 Careers Expo, Future Footprints hosted a 'stage', for alumni of the participating schools and other high profile Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to showcase their career paths and journeys since graduating Year 12. Features on this stage included:

Josie Janz-Dawson (Australian Netball Player), Dwes Wiggan-Dann & Katherine Dann (Amazing Race Australia), Sam May (Chef), Flewnt (Hip Hop Artist), Marlikka Perdrisat (Model & Actor), William Miller (Mechanic), Alethea Beetson (Artistic Director), Jiah Reidy (Department of Health), Benjamin Thomson (Founder Take Pride). There were 4 other stages showcasing various careers, as well as exhibitor 'booths' for students to interact with companies and organisations of interest.

In the weeks leading up to the expo, Future Footprints was delighted to bring to Perth Scott Wilson of Year 13 to talk about their online careers platform, and the online Careers Expo held in May. Scott Wilson, Hale School graduate and alumnus of the program, visited the students at each school to go through the Year 13 platform and share his experiences since leaving school.





## CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 12

After attending many formal graduation dinners, the Year 12's wanted something a little different and fun this year to celebrate the significant milestone of completing secondary school and the exciting transition into post-school pathways. A Night at the Museum themed event was organised with the opportunity not only to gather with friends from across all AISWA Future Footprints participating schools but also to have the afterhours VIP experience to explore the WA Museum Boola Bardip. We were honoured to have Aunty Sharon Wood-Kenney a proud Noongar Yamatji woman host the night. Aunty Sharon is an exceptional leader and advocate that holds many positions, including Aboriginal Community Engagement, Co-Design Consultant at University of Western Australia Centre for Social Impact, Researcher on the Noongar Knowledge Waterways Project, Noongar Radio Producer and Host and Founder Chair Executive Manager of Djinda Bridiya Wellbeing AAC. Aunty Sharon offered students many wise and insightful words as Year's 12 prepare for the next step in their educational journey and she also got everyone to dance in celebration as a whole group! Aunty Sharon particularly reminded Year 12 graduates that while they are nearing the end of one journey, they are at the beginning of their next journey. Highlighting that they are not alone and to call on each other for support as graduates who have also been on the journey with them. Thank you, Aunty Sharon, you are a wonderful person with a big heart. Importantly, thank you Year 12 graduates for your all your efforts over the secondary school years, we wish you the very best going forward with whatever post-school pathway you choose to pursue.





## CONTACT FUTURE FOOTPRINTS TEAM

To all the schools, parents, carers, families and communities, if you have any queries or need assistance in Perth, please do not hesitate to contact us on the following details:



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