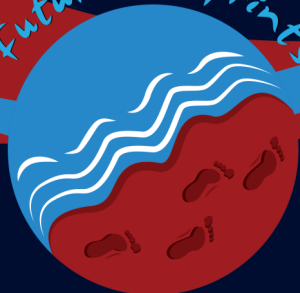


**Goodbye &
Thank you
AISWA**



Term 4 2019

Future Footprints




AISWA

**Future Footprints
Newsletter**

Farewell Roni Forrest

It is with a heavy heart I bid farewell to Future Footprints students, schools, and communities. Along with my husband, I have decided to retire from public working life. I have really enjoyed my time with the program since I started in 2011.

I have seen so many changes over the years especially with the growth of the program. We started out with 76 students in 2004 and have now grown to 400+ in 15 years, which is testament to the confidence and trust our program has in families and schools. Future Footprints has ably supported and assisted our participating schools to deliver cultural awareness, and more importantly, support students leaving home to come to a boarding school, which is extremely hard. We have worked closely with schools in supporting boarding students. I feel that's a testament to the faith and trust that schools have in us to deliver that much needed support and beyond. Our staff have grown and our funding has been consolidated.

We have even won on a few awards along the way. I won the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) 2015 Leadership award and alongside Lisa Fieldhouse, our efforts won Future Footprints the award for Exceptional Contribution to Indigenous Student Boarding at the National Indigenous Education and Boarding Symposium.

Along the way I have met some amazing people. One of the most rewarding aspects of this job is meeting young people and families from remote, regional, and urban communities. There are such diverse families with such different lifestyles. I thank you all for making me an instant nanna to many kids who still keep in touch. I believe I have brought reconciliation to the forefront in our schools. I have seen many changes. I have been delighted to work with schools in launching their Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs). Seven of our participating schools have developed or are in the process of developing RAPs and AISWA have also launched their own RAP. These are not just words on paper but real action which allows us to celebrate and build on partnerships and develop new ones with Aboriginal students and communities. Cultural awareness and competency needs to go hand in hand with reconciliation across all our work and into the community.

Its one of the most exciting things to happen in the education space, this concept of contextual teaching, which provides an amazing forum for working in bush settings, outdoor classrooms, rivers and beaches. This learning on country is transformational. Nature play connects students to outdoor environments and teaches them Aboriginal perspectives of country and a sense of place. It's very exciting as it is also a way to engage strongly with the Aboriginal community.

You do not have to travel far to find an outdoor classroom. I have held classes on the riverfront with science students, held history classes teaching the heritage and land, participated in history tours, learnt the Aboriginal place names of the area whilst visiting a special site, done art classes outdoors, and taught about the ecosystem.. There is no end to the type of lessons that can be developed outdoors and on-country. Students love it and are so engaged.

Generally, schools have a lot more contact with the Aboriginal community through reconciliation activities, by inviting Aboriginal people and Elders in as guest speakers. I know all our participating schools acknowledges the value our Aboriginal students bring to their school and celebrate it. We have assisted in having new buildings named to honour Aboriginal land, pools & learning centres renamed acknowledging Noongar history, taught and learnt Noongar language, held welcome to country ceremonies and smoking ceremonies, raising and flying our flag, and teaching Aboriginal perspectives. I know all our participating schools acknowledges the value our Aboriginal students bring to their school and celebrate it.

Finally I have been very fortunate to travel all around the world with Wesley College to New York, Canada, Hawaii, West Virginia, Niagara Falls & Toronto. I thank them for the opportunity

I hope I have done my role justice in supporting students, communities, families, schools, and staff of the program and thank you all for being there for me through it all. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here - they say get a job you love and you never have to work again... well this has been the case for me at Future Footprints.



Hope you are as kind and supportive to Lisa, Andrew and Katelyn as you were to me.

Boorda-wan

Farewell.

Roni Forrest

New contact email: wildfire1@live.com.au



Welcome to Country 2019

The beautiful setting of Kings Park was the location for another terrific Welcome to Country event this year.

The Welcome Ceremony is traditionally given by a Noongar group to the Future Footprints students in the second week of Term One. It is protocol for Aboriginal people when entering another group's country to signal your intentions and be accepted into their country. A ceremony shows respect for the traditional custodians, the Whadjuk people of Noongar country. To honour this we engage Noongar Elders and ceremonial dance groups to welcome students who come from all over Western Australia into Noongar Country at a significant meeting point in Perth. The day also gives the students a chance to meet up with fellow students or siblings from other schools. Students also network and develop friendships with other support networks; such as the scholarships partners, supporters, community members, and parents and school staff in attendance. In developing these networks students will know that they are not alone in their pursuit of education.





Student Councils 2019

Student Councils are aimed at Year 9 students, to begin the process of thinking of future careers options. Students have the opportunities to visit different locations and be mentored by past students and professionals to discover the wide range of options available. This year we visited St Catherine's College tertiary accommodation, and the Pilbara Regiment Irwin Barracks.





Black and White Social 2019

What a fantastic night we had! This year's Black and White Social was hosted by Scotch College, and a great night was had by all. We had delicious pizza, including dessert pizza, and a wonderful photo booth and DJ to keep the dancing going.

This year's social was based on the NAIDOC 2019 theme - Voice, Treaty, Truth.





Future Footprints hosts up to 10 students during the Midterm Break Boarders Long Weekend camps, for those who are unable to travel home. We aim for a family atmosphere with lots of fun activities that allow students to meet others in a safe environment and develop a peer support network in Perth. In 2019 we went to Brigadoon, Rockingham, and Shoalwater.

Midterm Break Camps 2019





Careers Expo 2019

Future Footprints had another successful Careers Expo this year. Many students attended the expo which was held at the Curtin University stadium. AFL players were in attendance and a magician entertained the students. More than 45 exhibitors attended from educational institutions, accommodation providers, government agencies and private companies.

Students engaged with exhibitors, completed questionnaires and scanned QR codes on an app to be in the running for a prize. Winners of the Careers Expo prizes of iPads were Tate Farmer of Carmel Adventist College and Suraya Bin Swani of Penrhos College.

Future Footprints would like to thank Woodside for their financial support of the Careers Expo.



Graduation Dinner 2019

The Graduation Dinner is held each year for the Year 12 Graduates, in celebration of their achievement in completing their schooling.

In 2019 Future Footprints were pleased to celebrate the graduation of 62 Year 12 students on Thursday 29 August. A beautiful dinner was hosted by Wesley College, whose students performed a fantastic Welcome to Country dance.



School NAIDOC



Carmel Adventist College



Mazenod College

School NAIDOC

The Future Footprints Program supports schools in engaging in more cultural activities, and many schools celebrate NAIDOC day with assistance from Future Footprints staff. Schools come up with many fun activities to involve both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, as well as in many cases the non-Aboriginal students. One of the most popular activities is a sand mural, a fantastic way to showcase Aboriginal culture in a contemporary way.



Methodist Ladies' College



Wesley College

School Events



Iona Presentation College

Future Footprints also participates in school events, run by or for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, or as a way to raise awareness about Aboriginal culture. This includes running Professional Learning for school staff, in classroom learning to support teachers that are bringing Aboriginal Perspectives into their lessons, or reconciliation events with students such as NAIDOC week or Reconciliation celebrations.



Santa Maria College

From the Team

As 2019 comes to a close, the team at Future Footprints is reflecting on what a fantastic year we've had, though it is bittersweet as after nine years of dedicated service Program Coordinator Roni Forrest is retiring. We have had so many great events, from the Welcome to Country, to another successful Careers Expo, and congratulating our Year 12's at the Graduation Dinner, it will be difficult to continue next year without Roni. However we are pleased to announce that Andrew Beck from Guildford Grammar School is joining the team, and we look forward to an exciting 2020 and beyond with him on board.

We wish you a happy holiday break and look forward to seeing our staff and students return in the new year. The Future Footprints team will be out of the office from December 13 until January 20.



Contact Future Footprints

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

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[Until end of 2019]

Aboriginal Liaison Officer

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Future Footprints is on Facebook and Instagram! Follow us:

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AISWA

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