



  
AISWA

## Future Footprints Newsletter

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## FROM THE AISWA FUTURE FOOTPRINTS TEAM

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Welcome back to the start of a new term. Reflecting on 2021, we would like to first sincerely thank all the School Coordinators for their highly responsive and support efforts during the COVID-19 lockdown at the beginning of Term 1. It was certainly another challenging moment, but all took it on and ensured their students and families were safe. From an AISWA Future Footprints perspective, we hope this further emphasises to your colleagues, respective schools, and the wider community the important work that you do and how central you are to your young people – thank you.

It was a busy start to the year for AISWA Future Footprints team with several new student and staff initiatives and many well-established events to deliver. In February, we experienced a wonderful and well attended ‘Welcome to Country’ with over 250 students and 14 schools – particularly given the State-wide COVID-19 lockdown during the weeks prior. We were excited to see many students, schools, and families come out to support the event and our students. We were fortunate this year to have Uncle Danny Ford Senior to welcome students who come from all over Western Australia and even interstate onto Noongar Country. The Welcome to Country is such a significant event, and one of the highlights of our year. We encourage families to attend this event, and are available to assist families in using an ABSTUDY Special Purpose Visit if travel to Perth is required.

In addition to consultation regarding ABSTUDY, scholarships, and career pathways, we moved to deliver a series of professional develop opportunities focussed on ‘Embedding Aboriginal histories and cultures in the classroom: Reconciliation through The Partnership, Acceptance, Learning and Sharing (PALS) Program’, as well as prepared for the Girls STEM Mining and the Lands Camp, two exciting new initiatives. We also held a the Term 1 School Coordinators Forum, it is always wonderful to get our schools into one room to share stories about working in the boarding education space.







## 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 former 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. It was nice to see and share in such a positive start to 2021.







## 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 exciting experience touring museums and experiencing Cape Naturaliste from the perspective of a Traditional Owner.

We would like to sincerely thank Boola Bardip Elder Aunty 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.



## INDIGENOUS BUSINESS SUMMER SCHOOL

2021 started with the exceptional Perth based National Indigenous Business Summer School WA (NIBSSWA) camp offering Year 11 and 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students the opportunity to be involved in a weeklong, immersive experience in studying business at university. This program is in its second year of operation and is an initiative of the Australian Business Deans Council in collaboration with Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Notre Dame Australia, and The University of Western Australia. In 2021 the NIBSSWA was hosted by Curtin University and supported by a team of university student mentors, participating Year 11 and 12 students gained valuable experience in business, innovation, and entrepreneurship and the very best of university life. For AISWA Future Footprints, it was particularly exciting to see Montana from Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) attend the NIBSSWA camp. We would like to highly commend Montana, her family and PLC for taking valuable time during school holidays to explore the wonders and opportunities of a career in the business world – well-done.

A sincere thank you to the team at Curtin University, Deans of Business Schools, and the wonderful Kim Collard.

If you would like to learn more about NIBSSWA in preparation for 2022 – you can find more info on the Curtin [website](#) or by emailing the team at [NIBSSWA@curtin.edu.au](mailto:NIBSSWA@curtin.edu.au)





## CONTACT US

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To all the 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 numbers:



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