




AISWA

Future Footprints

2021 Term 3

FROM THE TEAM

With Western Australia still being fortunate to avoid severe impacts from COVID-19, in addition to routine school visits Term 3 started with a range of events targeted at supporting students, families, schools, and boarding communities. It commenced with Lisa and David delivering professional learning on culturally inclusive and responsive practice and pedagogy to all staff at St Mary's Anglican School (AITSL 1.4). This was followed by attending and supporting multiple schools with their wonderful NAIDOC Week celebrations. Preparations took place for the Year 12 'Night at the Museum' and our regular school coordinator forum was held at AISWA. Mixed within all this activity the 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 to meet with the Hon Minister Ken Wyatt, Minister for Indigenous Affairs to discuss boarding and Indigenous Education. In alignment with the national Indigenous Voice initiative the team similarly continued with its own community consultation efforts to ensure local, regional, and remote voices are informing and guiding the direction and focus of the AISWA Future Footprint Program and to ensure it is targeting educational support that is important to their lives. This included school visits in the Kimberley to Yiyili Community School and Purnululu School, as well as schools in Esperance including Wongutha Christian Aboriginal School and Esperance Anglican Community School. Follow up work was undertaken with Scott Wilson and the Year13 team to explore and maximise feedback for 2022 from the piloting of an online Indigenous Careers Expo in Term 2 and to further explore post-school pathways for students in Years 10, 11, and 12. The team also had the opportunity to meet the Commissioner for Children and Young People Colin Pettit and discuss how to improve the wellbeing of children and young people, particularly in delivering education services and programs to those living in regional and remote areas of the State. Indeed, health, child safety and the law in school settings was a common theme across Term 3, an experience that gave us the opportunity to reflect on [The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child](#). Lastly, we warmly welcome Trinity College to AISWA Future Footprints group of schools and are excited to be working with them.

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.



KIMBERLEY VISIT

During this trip Lisa and David visited Yiyili Aboriginal Community School and Purnululu Aboriginal Community School and listened to community members and representatives share what they want for their children’s secondary education. They also managed to catch up with AISWA Future Footprints alumni for dinner at The Kimberley Grande. This was a great time to share stories, discuss their time at boarding school, gain further insight on what kept them motivated to graduate Year 12 and the challenges they now face back in community. With alumni Lisa and David workshopped ‘truth telling’ and going beyond the static hue of ‘what works’ and ‘what does not work’ in boarding, Indigenous First Nations Education, and cultural competency for teachers. These conversations provided community voice input and information about how AISWA Future Footprints can best evolve, build, and refine, to ensure it delivers services that are relevant, meaningful and of benefit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boarding students and families living [in regional, remote, and very remote communities](#). A key aspect of this trip was that it enabled the opportunity to listen to Aboriginal Education Workers and other school staff in regional, remote, and very remote communities, about the current national AITLS focus on cultural competence for teachers and to explore perceptions and expectations of what a culturally safe and responsive school actually looks like on a day-to-day basis.



MARTU FESTIVAL 2021

Lisa headed to Nullagine to help celebrate 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.

The annual Martu Youth Festival celebrates Martu talent in sport, music and culture, and focuses on providing pathways for outstanding Martu youth through talent recognition. Every year elite sporting organisations including West Coast Eagles, Swan Districts Football Club and Softball WA travel to the Western Desert seeking to identify talent at the festival.

Lisa was able to catch with staff from Strelley Community School and Parnngurr Community School to discuss further opportunities for their students.

Lisa also met Rebecca Johnson who works at Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service and Davina Chapman who works at Mawarnkarra Health Service discuss the Be You Cultural Actions program that they are offering schools.





ALICE SPRINGS (MPARNTWE) VISIT

Lisa travelled to Mparntwe (Alice Springs) for the Utyerre Apanpe (First Nations Educator’s Network). Utyerre Apanpe is led by First Nations cultural professors recognised through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law and practice with a fraternity of educators from 15 different nations and growing.

In response to Gonski Reports there was discussion to produce a response which will be called the MK Turner Review. Margaret Kemarre Turner OAM, (M K Turner) is an Arrernte woman, Elder, interpreter, artist, author and an ambassador for Children's Ground.

While there Lisa was privileged to be asked to also participate in Ampe-kenhe Ahelhe (Children’s Ground – Central Australia) at Burt Creek, one of the northern outstations – 60km north of Mparntwe.

Lisa also made the most of her interstate visit with networking opportunities—meeting with Steph Burgess from the NPY Women’s Council Boarding School Program, Principal of St Philips College Paul Bailey and the Northern Territory Transition Support Unit.



DANJOO KOORLINY SOCIAL IMPACT FESTIVAL

The team here at Future Footprints was thrilled to attend the 2021 Danjoo Koorliny Walking Together Social Impact Summit. An inspiring two days looking forward to 2029 (200 years colonisation of Perth), the term contributed to discussion around an ideal education system, and grant/funding processes. There were more than 400 people in the room, with First Nations people from all over, providing the opportunity to catch up with some familiar faces—Alumnus Ronald Bin Swani (2009) and early project contributor Frank Bobongie.



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 numbers:



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