

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School

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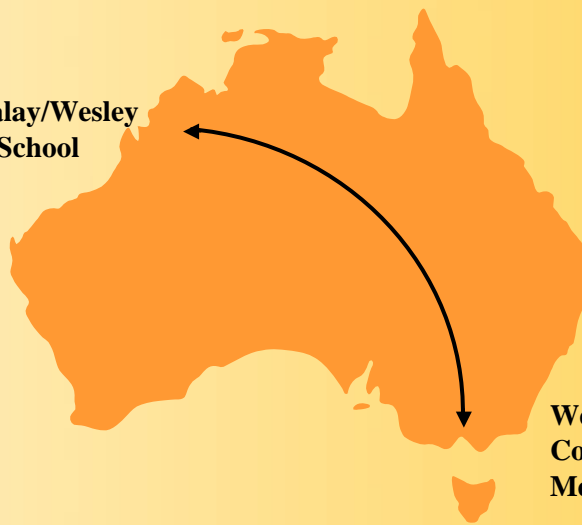
Leopold Downs Station

via

Fitzroy Crossing

The Kimberley, WA

Yiramalay/Wesley
Studio School

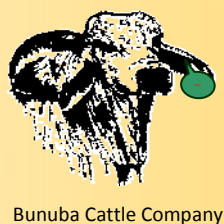


Wesley
College
Melbourne

The artwork for the Wesley College and Fitzroy Valley Community Partnership was created by Joe Ross, a Bunuba man, and captures the essence of the partnership between the Wesley and Fitzroy Valley Communities.

In this image, the concentric circles represent the meeting place where the joining of our communities and the continuation of the partnership are celebrated.

The purple circle at the centre of these circles symbolises Wesley's involvement at the hub of the partnership's activity and the parallel lines, which adjoin the circles, symbolise the paths which lead to the meeting place.





A unique and special partnership

In November 2004, a partnership between the Aboriginal people of the Fitzroy Valley Community in the Kimberley, Western Australia, and the community of Wesley College Melbourne, was established to bring about positive change through education.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties encapsulated their deep commitment to learning together, and to expanding horizons and future opportunities for the children and families of both communities.

With shared respect for people, language, culture and country, the stated aims of the partnership were to:

- Expand the horizons and life choice expectations of our youth
- Enrich and enhance the whole of life experiences for both communities
- Develop cultural understanding and a capacity to relate to others
- Support and to enhance community cohesion

Within the partnership many projects have flourished including: the development and publication of Bunuba and Walmajarri language curriculum resource units of inquiry for primary school children, the establishment of Wesmob, a Wesley student advocacy group, participation in three Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre Bush Meetings, held on Gooniyandi, Walmajarri and Bunuba country, and participation by Wesley students at the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) Festival.

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is a major educational initiative of this partnership. It is the first school in Australia to offer the new National Diploma of Education, developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research for students in Years 11 and 12.

The Studio School began operation on 15 August 2010 with an Induction Program for students in Year 10, and it was officially opened on 20 May 2011 with the launch of the new National Diploma.





Vision and Concept of Studio School

The vision for the Studio School stems from a genuine and deep commitment to making a difference to families and communities through education, and to building a more inclusive Australia.

The concept of the Studio School is a place of hands-on practical, work-related learning on country which allows students to build relationships and to participate fully in the opportunities for industry learning and personal/social learning across cultures in a residential setting.

The Studio School offers a unique program of learning for students in Years 10, 11 and 12, the majority of whom are Aboriginal students from the Fitzroy Valley. Students spend two terms of the school year “on country” at Yiramalay during the dry season (Terms 2 and 3) and two terms in Melbourne (Terms 1 and 4) at Wesley College.

The location and residential nature of the Studio School allows students to be fully immersed in the culture and local community whether in the Kimberley or in Melbourne.

As a learning space, the Studio School is a flexible construct, adaptable and transportable. It is shaped by context, location, and time, and at Yiramalay, by the local industry opportunities in pastoralism, agriculture, ecotourism, and the arts, the language and culture of Aboriginal Australia.

The flexibility of the operation of the Studio School allows it to run in a viable commercial manner locally, nationally and internationally and to provide opportunities for students in schools in other countries to access the learning offered.





The Bunuba people and Yiramalay

The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School is named after the Yiramalay community and is located on Leopold Downs Station which is approximately 80km north west of Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia.

The Bunuba people are the traditional owners of Leopold Downs and Fairfield Stations which are operated by the Bunuba Cattle Company, a functional and productive Aboriginal pastoral business running around 20,000 head of cattle on 1.4 million acres.

Wesley College, Melbourne, is the educational leader of the Studio School educational programs and their delivery at both Yiramalay and in Melbourne.

All teaching and pastoral staff are appointed by Wesley College and local people are involved in the development and delivery of the language, culture, history and on country aspects of the program.

Funding

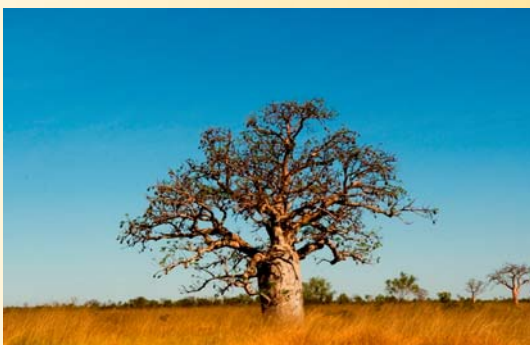
To establish the school, the Bunuba people in the Fitzroy Valley have invested \$1,000,000 in capital infrastructure and more than \$350,000 in in-kind support. Wesley College has committed \$500,000 in capital and in-kind support, and currently operational expenditure being supported by Wesley College is \$1,500,000 per annum before donations and grants.

The Studio School is seeking capital and recurrent funding from corporations, private foundations and state and federal governments.

Wesley College is a not-for-profit education entity, thereby allowing building and other contributions to be tax deductible via donations to the Wesley College Foundation.

Aboriginal students who enrol at the Studio School are eligible for full scholarship funding as Wesley College students.

To make a tax deductible gift/donation please contact Jack Moshakis, Director of the Wesley College Foundation on (03) 8102 6385 or jack.moshakis@wesleycollege.net.





The National Diploma of Education

The National Diploma of Education has three distinctive features.

- National

The National Diploma is a new framework for learning in the senior years of secondary school and is available to students throughout Australia.

Unlike most senior certificates, it has been developed as a national framework for learning rather than belonging to any one state or territory.

- Broad

The National Diploma of Education requires study in three broad areas of learning: Industry, Academic and Personal/Social. In this sense, also, it is different from most other senior certificates. It is a “vocational” certificate because of its strong emphasis on preparation for work. The industry learning component and the focus on development of general skills required for work are a central feature of the qualification. At Yiramalay, the industry focus for on-country learning is in the pastoral, agribusiness, ecotourism and arts industries. The National Diploma of Education also requires study in relation to the Academic and Personal learning domains. At the Standard Level, the academic focus is on literacy, numeracy and ICT Literacy. At the Advanced Level, the academic focus it involves the study of senior secondary subjects that could be taken from the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), and/or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP).

- Flexible

A distinctive feature of the National Diploma of Education is the (Industry-Academic-Personal) framework on which it is built. Within this framework, the program accommodates courses and modules developed as part of other certificates. It is possible for a student not only to receive certification for the National Diploma of Education, but also to be awarded other certificates if they meet the requirements of those certificates, eg VCE, WACE, IBDP, etc.



For more information contact

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The Yiramalay/Wesley Studio School, Aerial View, October 2010