



# Xavier Catholic College Newsletter

Strong in Faith • Strong in Culture • Strong in Learning

*Xavier Catholic College is committed to the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. Drawing on Tiwi traditions and the teachings of Jesus Christ and Bishop Gsell, we recognise and uphold the sacredness of our young people and the need to protect all children from abuse and exploitation.*



## Common Prayer

### 6th Anniversary of Laudato Si'

Loving God,

Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.

Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and those most at risk of being left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope and fraternity so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

## Coming up in Term 3...

### Week 4

XCC and MCPS Staff Retreat Day (Monday)

**Student Free Day (Monday)**

Feast Day of St Mary of the Cross (Sunday)

### Week 5

### Week 6

Assembly 1.30pm (Tuesday)

## Weekly

- Mondays: After School Activities
- Tuesdays: Assembly/Activities (P5)
- Wednesdays: Pastoral Care (P5)
- Thursdays: Cultural Program (P4-5)  
After School Activities



## Principal

Dear Families,

We have lots to celebrate at Xavier at the moment! Firstly we have welcomed three new teachers this term – **Anne-Maree Fewtrell** (Deputy Principal), **Patch Feeney** (Science and Maths), and **Jake Hewson** (HPE and Maths). They are all settling in very well and are building strong relationships with students and staff. If you see them around town, please say Awana!

Our Family Report Night at the Club was a BIG success with over 40 people coming to talk about their children's progress at school. We did a family survey on the night to find out how our families think the school is going and we got lots of great ideas and feedback. Many families said that Xavier is very encouraging and they are happy with the subjects we are teaching, especially English, Maths, Smart Skills and Culture. They also love the role that Tiwi Teachers play at school. Many parents want help to teach their children to put their phones away and to manage what they are doing online. This is an area that we will focus on more at school in Pastoral Care lessons. It is a big problem for parents of teenagers everywhere, not just in Wurrumiyanga. Thanks to **Leash Giles, Acting Curriculum Coordinator** for organising this excellent night and our reporting process.

Bush Camp was a fantastic three days on country at Tarntipi. What was best about the camp was seeing everyone so happy, relaxed and peaceful. When I asked our students how they felt to be on country on camp, they called out STRONG, FREE, SAFE and RELAXED. We were blessed to have Mass celebrated at camp by **Bishop Charles** and **Fr Francis**. Thanks to the Strong Women (**Jacinta, Regina** and **Frances**) for teaching weaving, painting, and how to collect bush medicine. Thanks to the **Orsto** and **Mungatopi** Families for teaching music and yoyi to everyone. **Josh Leane** led the camp team and he did a wonderful job.



It is six years since Pope Francis wrote his second letter, Laudato Si, which is about caring for our common home, this earth and all creation in it. Staff across our Catholic NT schools are doing work right now on the meaning of this document. We are very lucky in remote schools that we get to be on country so often. This helps us reflect on the sacredness and inter-connectedness of all creation. Tiwi people know instinctively that God is in everything and present in the everyday but we non-Tiwi often need reminding to slow down and to listen so that we can feel and see God. We thank God for the privilege of being on Tiwi land and in relationship with Tiwi people who draw us closer to our true selves and to God.

*You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land, So that all might be nourished.*

- Pope Francis

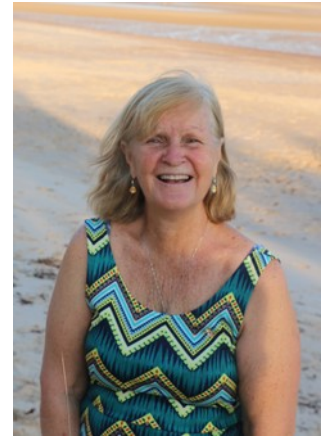
Warmest blessings,

**Andree Rice**  
Principal

# Welcome to New Staff

## Anne-Maree Fewtrell, Deputy Principal

Hello everyone, I am Anne-Maree Fewtrell and I have the great pleasure of being appointed the Deputy Principal position at Xavier Catholic College. I am very passionate about Aboriginal education, as I believe everyone has the ability to learn and achieve. The staff and young people have all been very welcoming and feel at home in Wurrumiyanga with my husband Rob. We have four children, Ballad, Cale and Kim, Tahnee and Rory and two grannies, River and Rainie.



I have experienced a great introduction to Xavier Catholic College seeing the young people and Tiwi Teachers create a video with Red Dust. Last week going on the school bush camp, the highlight was attending Mass in the bush with Bishop Charles, Xavier staff and students. On the last night of the camp the Tiwi Staff and their family members taught us some of the traditional dances. The night was very special and memorable.

Before moving to Wurrumiyanga, I have lived and worked in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin, living in some amazing national parks in the NT.

In my spare time I enjoy attending Mass, fishing, walking, gardening, swimming and spending time with my family. I am looking forward to getting to know all the students at Xavier and support them on their education, learning journey.



## Patch Feeney, Science & Maths Teacher

Hello there, my name is Patch Feeney.

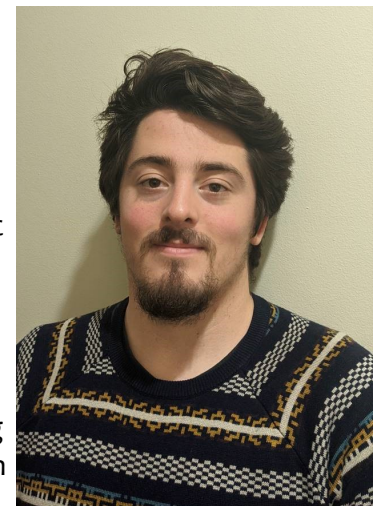
I come from Brisbane and I studied ecology at university.

I have really enjoyed my time so far in the Tiwi's and look forward to getting to know everyone more!

## Jake Hewson, Maths & HPE Teacher

Hi. My name is Jake Hewson and I will be teaching Health and PE and Maths at Xavier Catholic College. I am from Adelaide South Australia and am new to the Top End Territory. I went to Adelaide University studying Science including Botany and Immunology, as well as my Masters of Teaching. Whilst in Adelaide I have had some experience in a few Catholic Schools including St Aloysius College and Nazareth Catholic College.

Outside of school I am a lifeguard and swim instructor and passionate in swimming, water polo and water activities. I am really looking forward to be working at Xavier Wurrumiyanga and to experience the Tiwi lifestyle. If you see me in the community please don't be shy to say hi. I am looking forward to be working with staff, students, parents and the community in my time up here.





## Bush Camp

After such a successful Bush Camp last year, the students and staff at Xavier were very excited to head back to Tarntipi once again.

On Wednesday morning, the school headed down to a campsite by the Tarntipi waterhole. After a brief introduction to the rules of the camp, students were placed into groups for some fun activities that were aimed at improving teamwork and communication. By the looks on everyone's faces, fun was had by all.

In the afternoon, students experienced lessons in culture from some Tiwi elders and also had a quick swim in the waterhole. As evening came, students were introduced to many different riddles and also the game 'Spy' which was played well into the evening. As students went to bed, there was a very positive atmosphere around the campsite. It was very cold but everyone was able to brave it through the night.



On Thursday, students took part in culture lessons that included painting wooden squares that would later be combined as a whole school art project. The students had plenty of free time down at the beach where they were able to go for a long walk or fish in the mangroves. As it was quite hot throughout the day, the students had another chance to swim in the waterhole to cool off. In the afternoon students were placed into groups to complete a scavenger hunt. With lots of laughter and running around, this was a very popular time of the camp.





## Bush Camp (continued...)

Thursday night was an amazing experience where students and staff participated in traditional Tiwi singing and dancing around the campfire led by the Xavier Tiwi Teachers. Many people who participated in the camp mentioned that this night was their highlight.

On Friday morning, students took the lead in packing up their tents, sleeping bags and mats before helping tidy up the rest of the campsite. Students enjoyed a delicious bacon and egg sandwich breakfast before having one last swim. Sadly, it was time to leave and we all jumped into the school vehicles and headed back to community. Before they arrived home, all students helped wash vehicles, wipe down mats, air out sleeping bags, clean tents and other small jobs.

Xavier Bush Camp was a wonderful experience shared by the whole school community. The camp helped build relationships not only with students and teachers, but also between each other.



A special thanks goes to everyone who helped organise camp and helped play a small role during the camp to bring such a large event together.

**Josh Leane**  
HPE & Pastoral Care/Wellbeing Coordinator





## Christmas in July Maths Project

Throughout the end of Term 2 and the beginning of Term 3, Junior students have been putting their maths skills into action to budget and plan for a Christmas in July Project.

They have had to hypothetically earn money, they earned a payslip and then had to plan and budget for food, decorations and gifts. We ordered the food and students had to divide it evenly between four groups. On Monday we had a our parties and they were a great success.

Congratulations to all the juniors and teachers on an amazing effort.

**Leash Giles**  
Acting Curriculum Coordinator



## Red Dust Music Program

During the first week of Term 3 Students participated in a story-telling program as part of the Red Dust Project, through music as the main medium.

Students spent the week learning about the entire process of creating a song and music video. This first began with brainstorming the themes that students wanted to base the song on, which would eventually act as a guideline in creating song lyrics in both English and Tiwi language.

Students then learnt about beats, tempo and instrumental sounds that could be blended together to create the music to the song. The students decided to record the sound of clap sticks to be the foundation for the song.

Once the music and lyrics had been confirmed the students began thinking up locations around the community where they wanted to film their music video. With the support of the Red Dust team, as well as Leash, students put together their best foot forward in creating dance moves that would accompany the song and its lyrics.

The result of the student's creativity and their overall effort was a very special music video. Xavier's very own song and music video will be premiered online on 11 August. More information on how to watch the video will be announced soon on our Facebook. We are incredibly proud of all of our student's efforts during this fun and exciting project.

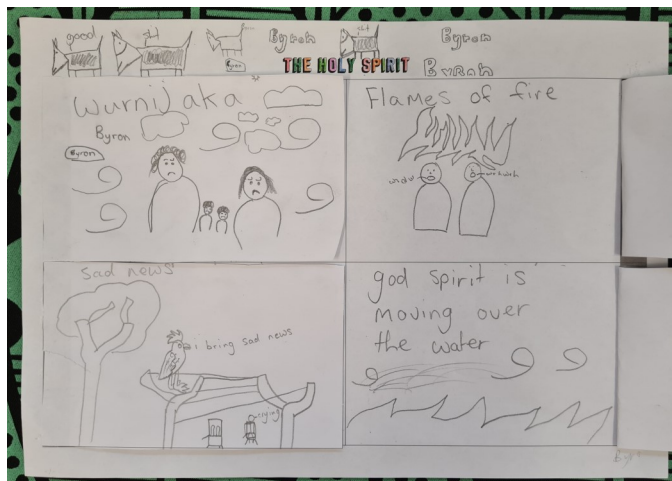
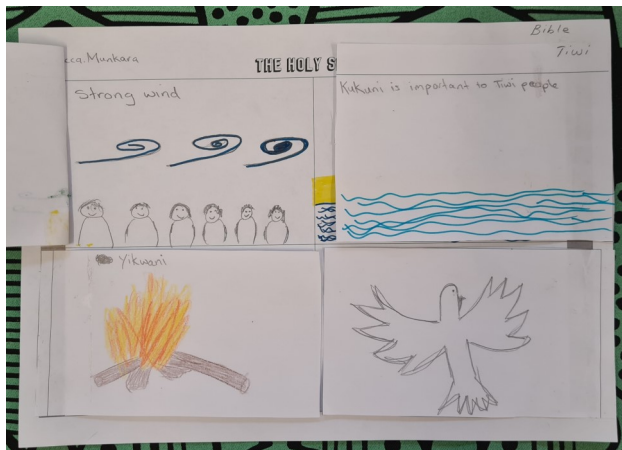


A special thank you to the Xavier students Una, Jimmy, Campbell, Paul, Trenton, MJ, and Edwina as well as teachers John, Rodney and Peter, that put themselves out there and took on lead singing roles.

**Darcy Direen**  
AIW Coordinator

# Catholic Identity

The Junior classes at Xavier have been learning more about the Holy Spirit. Students have been reading the Bible and talking about Tiwi Culture to help them understand how God is with them every day.



# EP Plantation Excursion

On Wednesday, seven EP students went with Belinda and Bertram to the Plantation on Melville Island. Teresina, Shannon, Carmina, Helen, Dwayne, Canisus and Brando learnt what life is like for the workers on the Plantation and the type of work they do to look after the plants and animals that live there.

A highlight was seeing a nesting pair of Red Goshawk, a species that is endangered, at risk of extinction.



**Belinda Pereira**  
EP Teacher







## Speaking Insights

This week we were visited by Leash's family, Daryl, Daniel and Donna. While they were here, Daryl and Daniel spoke to our staff about autism and supporting students with additional needs. Daniel, Leash's brother, is autistic and is passionate about sharing his experiences and providing strategies for teachers and families to support children with their learning. All the staff learnt a lot and really enjoyed hearing all about autism and getting lots of ideas for our teaching.

**Clare Kearney**  
Inclusion Support Coordinator



## Family Report Night

Our Family Report Night at the Club on Tuesday was a great success! Thank you to all the families that came to celebrate our students' learning with us.

**Leash Giles**  
Acting Curriculum Coordinator

