

QUEENWOOD KIMBERLEY IMMERSION





Indigenous immersions provide students with authentic, life changing opportunities to be part of the world's oldest living culture. Through temporary relocation to remote, unfamiliar and culturally rich Aboriginal environments, students have the unique opportunity to be immersed in Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing.

Immersions to remote communities with strong culture, facilitate deep understanding of the connection to country that forms the basis of our First Peoples' spiritual and physical existence. It is through Indigenous immersions that respectful relationships develop, inspiring students to value humanity in all its diversity, to understand Indigenous world views whilst rising to the challenge of embracing the unfamiliar.

Why The Kimberley?

Fitzroy Crossing is one of the last remaining areas in Australia where Aboriginal people are living off the land as they have been for thousands of years. Approximately 95% of the population are Aboriginal and traditional language, art and culture is strong. It is a matriarchal community and there are many examples of strong women who have instigated substantial change in the community to improve their lives.

We have visited the region to ask for permission from the Bunuba and Gooniyandi communities of Fitzroy Crossing for Queenwood students to experience culture and explore the country with local Elders. This area is rich with cultural activity: the Women's Centre recently partnered with Melbourne Fashion Week; Mangkaja Arts Resource Centre recently completed a clothing line with fashion label Gorman; and Nagula Jarndu Art Centre are partners with Publisher Textiles.

Why such a small group?

Traditional Indigenous learning occurs on country, in small groups and is conducted by local Elders who understand the protocols, Dreaming and ceremony of their nation. It is for this reason that places are strictly limited to a maximum of 8 students. Primary transport will be in two four wheel drives seating four girls and a Queenwood teacher in each vehicle. An additional backup vehicle transporting the Elders and the cultural translator will accompany the group.

Acceptance on the trip is by application with preference given to more senior girls who may not be eligible to attend in subsequent years.

Where will we stay?

Only one other school, Wesley College, has an ongoing connection with Fitzroy Crossing. They have established Yiramalay Wesley Studio School for students at Fitzroy Crossing. They have a strong scholarship program for selected students to attend their Melbourne campus. As a result, whilst this community has been exposed to a carefully considered two-way educational experience, the community has not been exhausted with very large groups from multiple schools visiting. Yiramalay will host us for the middle part of our trip so the girls will have access to excellent boarding and classroom facilities. The girls will participate in workshops with local Elders and local Indigenous children will be invited to join us creating an authentic two-way experience.



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*All information contained in
this document is correct at
time of publication.
Visit queenwood.nsw.edu.au
for up-to-date information.



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QUEENWOOD
Per aspera ad astra

Dates

20 – 30 June 2020

*The girls have been given permission to
miss the final week of Term 2 so they can
be in Yiramalay Studio School learning
alongside local Indigenous students.
This will likely be a biennial trip.*

Cost

Approximately \$6200. A non-
refundable deposit of \$1000 is
required to secure your place; it will
be deducted from the final cost.

Itinerary

20 JUNE: Cable Beach Dinosaur
Footprints

21 JUNE: Willie Creek Pearl Farm
Historic Broome Cinema

22 JUNE: Mowanjum Art Centre
Carving Workshop

23 – 26 JUNE: Yiramalay Cultural
Immersion with Aboriginal Elders
including bush textiles, printing, seeds/
beads, bush medicine, weaving. Visit
Windjana Gorge & Gekkiu Gorge.

27 – 28 JUNE: Fitzroy Crossing
Women's Centre & Arts Centre

29 – 30 JUNE: Broome including
fishing at Rederra with local Aboriginal
guide, sunset camel ride, Aboriginal
language lesson

*Please note, this is an unconfirmed itinerary
and is subject to change due to weather or
community restrictions.*

Queries

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