

Pilbara Immersion September 2016



Dear Year 9 Boys,

You are invited to apply to be part of an Indigenous immersion opportunity to the community of Warralong in the Pilbara.

This Indigenous immersion program will offer participants a privileged insight into the daily lives of Aboriginal people, from a remote perspective, at Warralong out of Port Hedland in the Pilbara WA. Participants are invited by leaders to share in parts of their culture, ask questions, seek clarification and explore Aboriginal Spirituality. Opportunities to share in current issues and their possible causes and solutions can also be explored.

“Being with” the community is a vital component of this immersion. Students can expect to experience community life; fishing, hunting and gathering, painting as well as camping out under the stars, cooking damper and eating goanna! Opportunities to explore Rock Art, the gorges near Marble bar and the rabbit proof fence at Cape Keraudren will also be offered.

The immersion experience may also assist participants to deepen their spirituality and strengthen their commitment to living their faith in ways that build a more just world from a perspective of justice and lived gospel values.

Indigenous immersions develop friendships in solidarity with our First Australians. They transcend colour and unite us all to walk together, moving Australia and Reconciliation forward.

For students interested in applying for this immersion, the following website will be helpful:
<http://www.strelleycommunityschool.wa.edu.au/>

The following link can also be viewed:

<http://youtu.be/46OJoxwFWUo>

Cost: \$3,500 AUD

Includes: 10 day Immersion, flights from Sydney, all meals, basic accommodation in the school, travel insurance, 4WD travel, Catholic Mission facilitator, donation to host community and community elder involvement.

LOCATION: WARRALONG

The Pilbara is in the north of WA between the Kimberley and Gascoyne regions. Warralong is home to the Aboriginal people of the Nyangumarta and Mardu people from Strelly, Warralong and Port Hedland communities. Participants have an opportunity to stay in a remote community and share in the lifestyle of the Aboriginal people, observing and participating in their lifestyles and observing the inextricable connection they have with the land/desert and the sea. Participants will be hosted by Strelley Community School and the local community.

Dates: Friday 23 September 2016 – Sunday 2 October 2016

Application process:

It is envisaged that this will be a popular immersion opportunity, with only 10 places available, and as such, if you are interested, I would ask that you complete the following:

1. Email a letter of application to myself to be received no later than 26 February 2016 which includes the following information:
 - i) Your understanding of what is meant by the Service-Learning Partnership. How does this reflect the teachings of the Catholic faith?
 - ii) Your personal reasons for wanting to be part of this immersion opportunity in 2016.
 - iii) What do you hope to gain from being part of this immersion?
 - iv) The name of one referee and their phone number other than your Boarding Coordinator (these will automatically be spoken to). This does not have to be a Joey's staff member, but of course it can be.
2. A short list will be developed based on your written applications.
3. Participants in the 2016 visit will be announced by 5 March.

If you require further assistance with this process, please email me at lmaher@joeys.org

Many thanks for your interest. I look forward to your application.



Lesley Maher
Director of Mission