

# Galilee

SCHOOL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Communities@Work

# ABOUT GALILEE SCHOOL

Communities@Work's Galilee School is a registered, independent, secondary school for disengaged and vulnerable young people in Years 7-10 in the ACT and surrounding areas for whom the mainstream schooling environment has struggled to deliver positive learning outcomes.

Galilee School's team of highly skilled educators, youth workers and support staff provide students with a quality education aligned with the Australian Curriculum and a supportive and flexible learning program tailored to achieve the objectives in each student's Individual Learning Plan.

Galilee School also provides training and job ready support to increase the education and employment opportunities for students transitioning to the workforce or to further educational pathways.

The school is uniquely situated at a 200 hectare bushland setting in Kambah ACT (Years 7-9) and at Dixon Drive, Holder (Year 10).



2019 Student Leaders

“The dedicated and sustained focus on each student's individual progress - and the celebration of every single milestone along the way - is what makes the school, the staff and the students so special.”

Mel Smith  
Senior Secondary  
College Coordinator/  
Transition Teacher

# OUR YEAR OVERVIEW

This year has been a year of momentum, with our highest ever student enrolment (56\*); the introduction of new programs, activities and curriculum subjects; celebration of our 20th anniversary; opening of a new and dedicated STEM building for our Design Tech unit; plans for capital works programs on both campuses; and consultations with the government around potential expansion to Years 11 and 12.

We designed purpose-built school management and operational systems to better support our students and their families and improved both our compliance and assurance to build depth and confidence in our school operations.

We encouraged our students to contribute to the culture of the school by inviting them to have input into the design of their learning spaces and by encouraging involvement in our Student Leadership Program.

Once again, I acknowledge the amazing work done by all the staff of the school. Thanks everyone for making a real difference in our young people's lives.

We also acknowledge the many teams and individuals across Communities@Work that partnered with the school in supporting our young people while also impacting, so powerfully, the broader ACT community.

Importantly, we would also like to acknowledge the amazing individual progress made by so many of our wonderful young people. The growth, the development, the learning that occurred in the lives of the young people attending the school was truly inspirational and is what really gives 'heart' to our work.

**Tim McNevin, Principal**

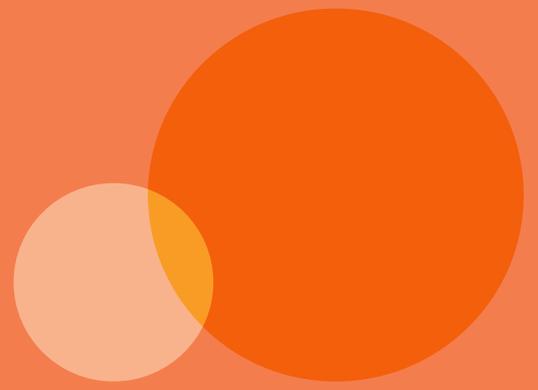


“ With students at the centre of what we do and with so much amazing growth and development happening in so many facets of the school – Galilee School is a school with momentum. ”

*Tim McNevin,  
Principal*

*\*56 total enrolment across the 2019 calendar year - with August census data stating 40 students enrolled.*

# A YEAR OF FIRSTS



2019 saw a number of 'firsts' within the School that impacted positively on both staff and students. These firsts evoked a strong sense of pride, a feeling of growth, of expansion, of satisfaction, of vibrancy and of hope.

For the first time...

We built a **community street library**.

We ran a **formalised volunteering program** with students engaging in a variety of community-based volunteering programs to support numerous organisations across Canberra.

One of our students transitioned into a fulltime **ACT Government traineeship**.

We ran **ceramics and digital technologies** as subjects in our curriculum.

**Peer coaching took place** between staff (this will continue to develop and evolve our practice and our culture as a school).

We had a **STEM Lab**, in a newly commissioned and dedicated building.

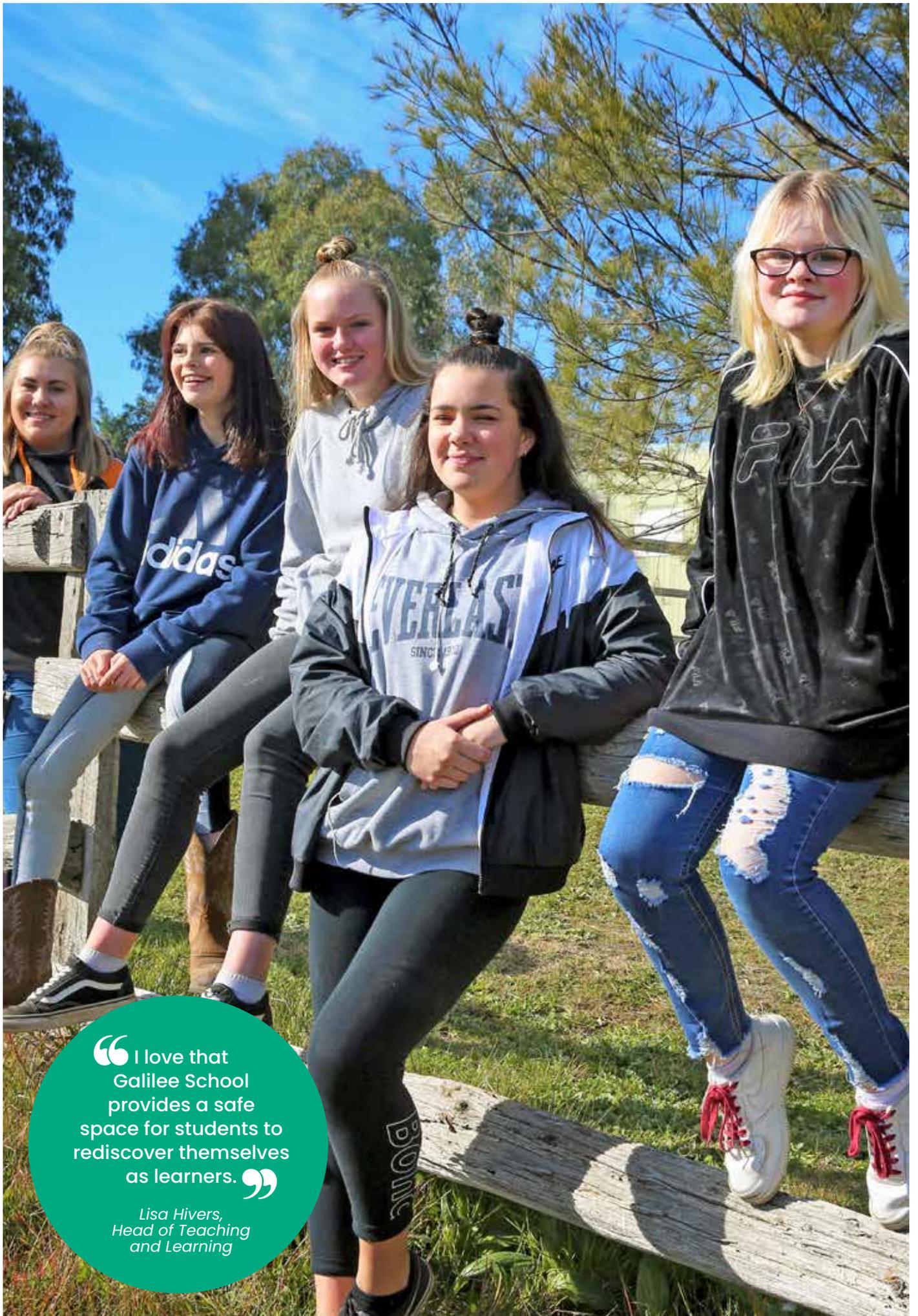
We ran a **bike program**.

We had **three bus runs** each morning and afternoon to accommodate the growing number of enrolments.

We appointed a **Senior Secondary College Coordinator** (in anticipation of an extension of our registration being applied for in 2020 to include Years 11 and 12).

**Learning Support Assistants** have been engaged in the school.

We participated in the **Sorry Day Walk**.



“ I love that Galilee School provides a safe space for students to rediscover themselves as learners. ”

*Lisa Hivers,  
Head of Teaching  
and Learning*

# CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

Connecting our students to their community is an important focus for the school. These connections help them to gain an understanding of society, access positive role models and form positive relationships outside the school setting.

To enable these connections the school has built strong partnerships with organisations and services including PCYC, Menslink, Junction Youth Health Services and Gugan Gulwan Aboriginal Health Services, ACT Health, and the Australian Federal Police.

An important component of our community engagement is the volunteering and charity opportunities we provide for students. This strengthens the students' interpersonal skills, teamwork, and critical thinking, and encourages positive relationships with a sense of social responsibility.

## Clean Up Australia Day



Students and staff from both campuses participated in the annual Clean Up Australia Day initiative, cleaning both their own environment and community spaces for the enjoyment of other community members.

## Making Dog Toys for Rainbow Paws



Inspired by a visit by local charity Rainbow Paws, students made dog toys for the charity to distribute around Canberra.



## Community Street Library



This project, planned and designed by students and teachers, is a symbol of our commitment to reading and to our community. Thanks to Independent Property Group Tuggeranong for generously donating materials, and O'Homes Canberra for the carpentry.

## Volunteering at Domestic Animal Services



Year 9 and 10 students regularly volunteered at the Domestic Animal Services dog pound to assist with walking, socialising, training, and creating treats for the dogs. One student even moved into a full-time traineeship as a result of this program.



## Share the Dignity



Year 10 students assisted women experiencing homelessness and domestic violence by participating in the Share the Dignity collection drive. They also connected with members of Communities@Work seniors programs who supported their campaign with donated goods - a lovely example of intergenerational collaboration and respect across our organisation.



## It's In The Bag



Year 10 students packed gift bags for women in need, adding their own personalised notes. The bags included personal hygiene and beauty products in handbags donated by a local book club.

## Gratitude Week



Twice a year across the school we hold Gratitude Week, where we engage in small scale activities, discussions, reflections and creative sessions aimed at generating a sense of gratitude and appreciation in the young people attending the school as well as among staff. The impacts of Gratitude Week across the school are observable and the participation in the conversations with young people are a privilege to engage with.

# BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Building positive relationships with students, their families, welfare agencies, other educational service providers, training and employment organisations, local government and businesses has been an important factor in the success and reputation of the school.

## Relations with Students

Building positive and effective relationships with our students is the foundation for our educational approach. A strong student-staff relationship, based on trust and acceptance for who they are, allows us to understand 'what's really going on' in the student's life, to demonstrate that interpersonal relationships can be more than superficial, and to shape positive behavior changes.

Our 'shared meals' are another wonderful opportunity for students and staff to come together, reflect on the successes across the school, the progress that has been made, share a meal together, engage in social discussion and develop social skills in a non-threatening, affirming environment.

The strength of our relationships with students, and our commitment to their welfare, is also reflected in our well-attended weekly after school Transitions Assistance Program, which provides ongoing academic, social and emotional support for former students as they navigate college, vocational pathways or employment.

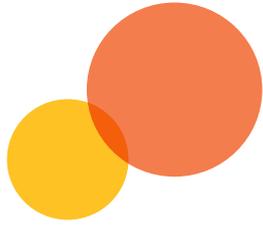
## Relations with Parents and Carers

At our Principal's BBQ, families and agencies who support our students are invited for a community BBQ and to hear about our teaching models. It also serves as an open day for any other families. During the year we also launched a new communications app, partnering with School Stream, to enhance the quality of our communication with parents and carers. This has been very favourably received.

## Relations with Government

ACT Health visited our Year 10 campus to talk with students about available health services and give students the Meningococcal vaccine. We continue to seek opportunities to work with a range of ACT Government agencies in support of our young people and their families.





“ Relationships are key to the work we do with our students. ”

*Lisa Hivers,  
Head of Teaching  
and Learning*

### Relations with Welfare Agencies

Our staff form part of a student's care team, actively collaborating with clinical and welfare staff to develop the most appropriate support strategies for each student, liaising with government departments and organisations, and attending case conferences in support of our young people.

### Relations with Educational/ Training Organisations

During the year students participated in our yearly CIT hospitality course, visited the Careers Expo at Exhibition Park and the CIT Year 12 program, and obtained white cards and asbestos awareness cards from CIT. For our second straight year, we had a student successfully enrolled in the Future Womens Trade Program.

### Relations with Community and Supporters

We were very grateful for the assistance of numerous organisations keen to support our mission including Independent Property Group Tuggeranong and O'Homes, Musica Viva, Electro Optic Systems, Australian Defence Force Academy, award-winning Australian teens writer Jack Heath and Grill'd Woden.

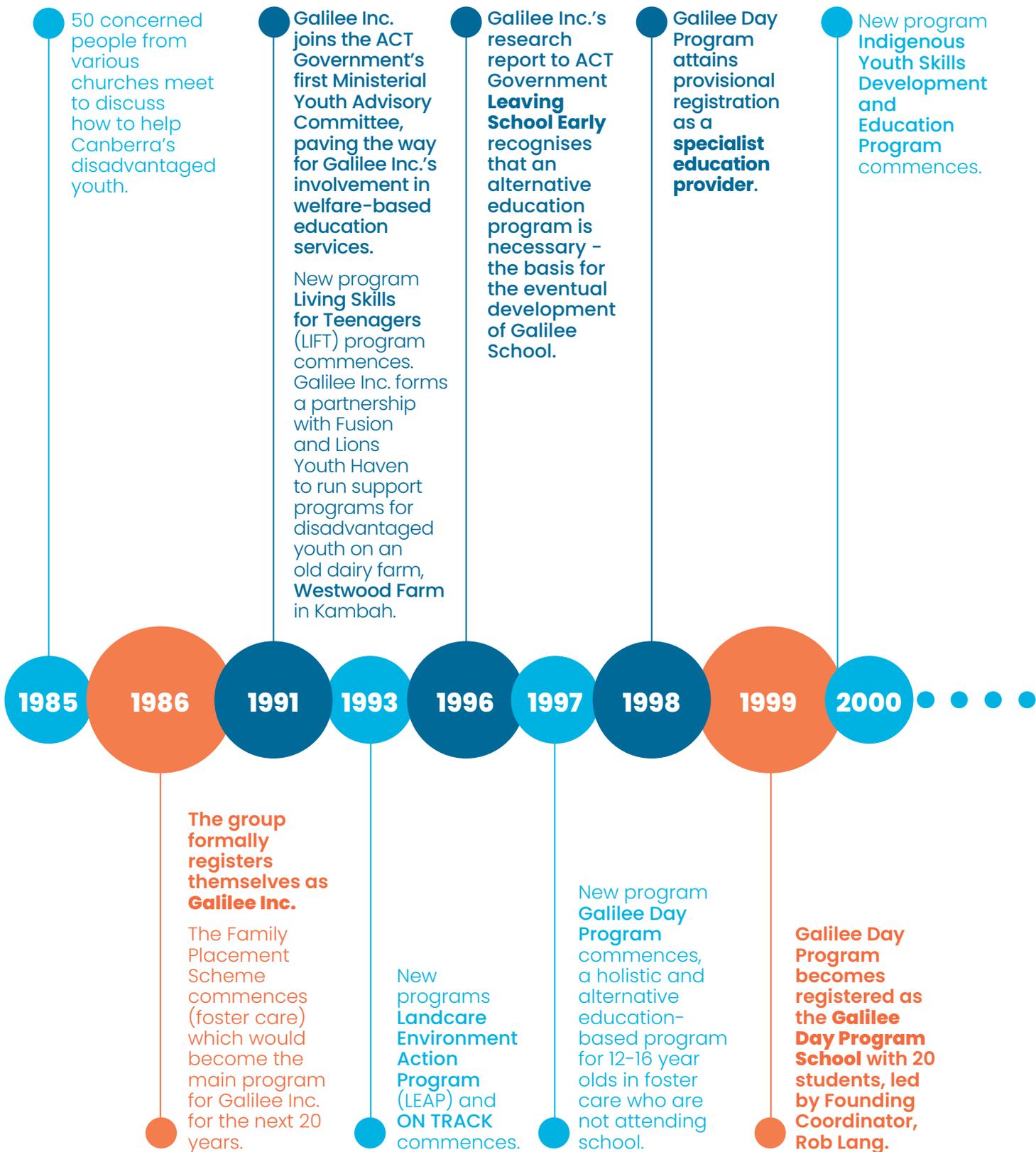


“ Galilee School is a unique learning environment. Our students are treated as true individuals and we work as a team to support the whole student with a wrap-around approach that focuses on academic, social and emotional support. ”

*Mel Smith,  
Senior Secondary  
College Coordinator/  
Transition Teacher*



# REFLECTIONS ACROSS THE YEARS...



# ...35 YEARS OF GALILEE SCHOOL

Canberra bushfires destroy many of the buildings at Westwood Farm, including the school.

New rebuilt school building officially opens.

Galilee School amalgamates with Communities@Work.

20th anniversary of the opening of Galilee School. Planning commences to add Year 11 and 12.

35th anniversary of Galilee Inc.

2001

2003

2004

2005

2006

2011

2016

2019

New program **Galilee Transport Service** commences, to meet the transport needs of children in foster care.

**Galilee Day Program School is renamed to Galilee School.**

Galilee School becomes a formal member of the ACT Association of Independent Schools.

New program **Youth Health Project** commences, providing health education.

Year 10 students move to the new Holder campus.

# YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the year the students explored a broad range of curriculum topics including:

- How to be money smart and find the best buys
- War and cultural journeys through timelines
- Forensics in science
- Body trafficking
- Teenage issues, journal writing and Shakespeare
- Life development skills sessions

Student also enjoyed a wide variety of creative, recreational, and outdoor activities such as:

- Participating in volleyball, bouldering, squash, OzTag, gymnastics, basketball, and fitness for PE.
- Making the courtyard come alive with plants and a mural of our Gratitude Tree.
- Working with a graffiti artist to develop the beautiful hallway mural.
- Meeting award-winning teen writer Jack Heath.
- Designing, painting, and drawing masks and posters displayed around the school.
- Participating in a photography workshop and drumming workshop.
- Creating Halloween decorations, food, and costumes for a shared meal event.
- Challenging staff to weekly UNO championships, celebrity heads, tennis and frisbee.
- Going for walks to nearby Westwood Farm and getting visits from the farm animals.
- Expanding their music knowledge with Album of the Week.

## Film-Making

Film has continued to be a major part of our learning journey, incorporating many of the Australian curriculum subjects and general capabilities. Students created several short films on homelessness, bullying and expressing yourself. This allowed them to participate in film-making roles, employ coping skills to build self-confidence, and work in teams to achieve an end goal.

## Alan Tongue Aspire Program

Students participated in the Allen Tongue Aspire Program, created by former Raiders captain Allen Tongue. Allen taught students how they can eradicate family violence and build healthy and respectful relationships. A highlight of the program was a tour of the Canberra Raiders' headquarters and a touchdown experience at the GIO stadium.



## Gymnastics Program

Our gymnastics program enabled engagement, participation, and social interaction between all our young people, and was one of the first physical education/sports programs that had near 100% participation by all students.



## Road Ready

Our Road Ready program was again a huge success, with almost all students that commenced the program completing it and going on to get their L plates. Road Ready incorporates literacy and numeracy (statistics and data), interactive activities, and classroom discussion on risk-taking, maturity, safety, finances, driver safety, and transition to adulthood.



## Sorry Day Walk

For the first time, we participated in the Sorry Day Bridge Walk, which was a huge success and a positive experience for both students and staff. We even became the lead footage for the local news! The event allowed our students to explore their art skills with production of a banner, develop an appreciation for cultural perspectives and understanding of Australian history, and participate in a cultural event that they would otherwise not have had the opportunity to be part of.

## Work Experience Week

Our Year 10 students engaged in authentic work experience through structured placements across Canberra, with one student even going on to work regularly at their placement (Morgan Group) one day a week for the rest of the year. Other employers included: Tuggeranong Pet Barn, CC Cares Hair Salon, Kaleen Vet Clinic, Woolworths, Toyota Mechanics, ACTION bus mechanics workshop, Paws2Play Doggy Daycare, SPARK Ginninderry, LAVA Espresso and Communities@Work Taylor Childcare and Education Centre.





## Chief Minister's Reading Challenge

In our second year of participation we again received 100% engagement from our Year 10 students. The Challenge encouraged students to carefully consider and expand their reading material and identify opportunities to read further.

## Bike Program

Through the determination, drive, and assistance of the students, we implemented a very successful bike program which involved planning a track, going on weekly rides to the Farm and learning basic bike maintenance skills.



# OUR STAFF

- 9  Teachers
- 5  Youth Workers
- 2  Learning Support Staff
- 1  Administration Officer
- 1  Principal

- 9  TQI Accredited
- 6  Certificate IV
- 6  Diplomas
- 8  Bachelor
- 3  Graduate Degree

## Teacher Standards and Qualifications

The school seeks to employ registered teachers whose experiences are greater than a 'normal' mainstream environment and whose life experiences add value to the nature of teaching and learning at Galilee. All staff undergo training in Trauma-Informed Practice, Accidental Counsellor, Positive Behaviour Support, Disability Standards in Education, as well as relevant and ongoing professional learning throughout the year.

“Seeing young people succeed at something they genuinely believed they never would be able to do, is a beautiful thing to be part of.”

*Kaila Drysdale,  
Youth Worker*

# OUR STUDENTS

## Student Attendance and Enrolment Figures

	ATTENDANCE		ENROLMENT	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
YEAR 7	73%	60%	2	2
YEAR 8	61%	39%	9	9
YEAR 9	47%	59%	21	21
YEAR 10	47%	61%	24	17

## NAPLAN Assessments

All parents/carers of students in NAPLAN years in 2019 elected to not have their young person participate in the annual assessment when offered the opportunity.

2019 My School enrolments (managing non attendance)

56\* enrolments in 2019

*\*56 total enrolment across the 2019 calendar year - with August census data stating 40 students enrolled.*

# END OF YEAR GATHERING

At the end of the year the whole school gathered at the Kambah campus to acknowledge the journey that we have been on – the ups, downs, trials, challenges, growth, relationships, friendships, successes, love, joy, fun and memories.



“ We at Galilee School have a deep belief in the potential that resides in every young person. We see it in you. We want you to see it in yourselves. We hope you can see it in each other.”

*Tim McNevin,  
Principal - Extract from the  
End of Year Speech*

# YEAR 10 GRADUATION

At the Year 10 Graduation at the Southern Cross Club, parents, friends and staff were full of pride and admiration for the 18 graduating students (10 Year 10 Certificates, 8 High School Records) and the courageous and resilient way they had successfully navigated their often difficult journey, to blossom into confident young adults.

A large part of that success lies with Galilee School's dedicated teachers and support workers, who have supported and guided the students to prepare them for

the next stage of their lives. Their genuine care and commitment and deep belief in the potential that resides in each student led several students to repeatedly comment "I wouldn't be here today without them. I owe them so much".

Thank you to the organisations who provided their services freely to create a truly special experience for the students, including clothing from the Best Dressed Store and hairstyling by Emma from Eden Hair Energy.

“ I truly believe if I didn't come to Galilee School I don't think I would be graduating here tonight or even be attending school. Galilee has set me up for a positive future next year as I will be starting college at Erindale. ”

*Chloe Baker*

“ To know that some of these kids will make it to Year 10 because they trust us enough to support them through the rough days and the great days is a very humbling experience. ”

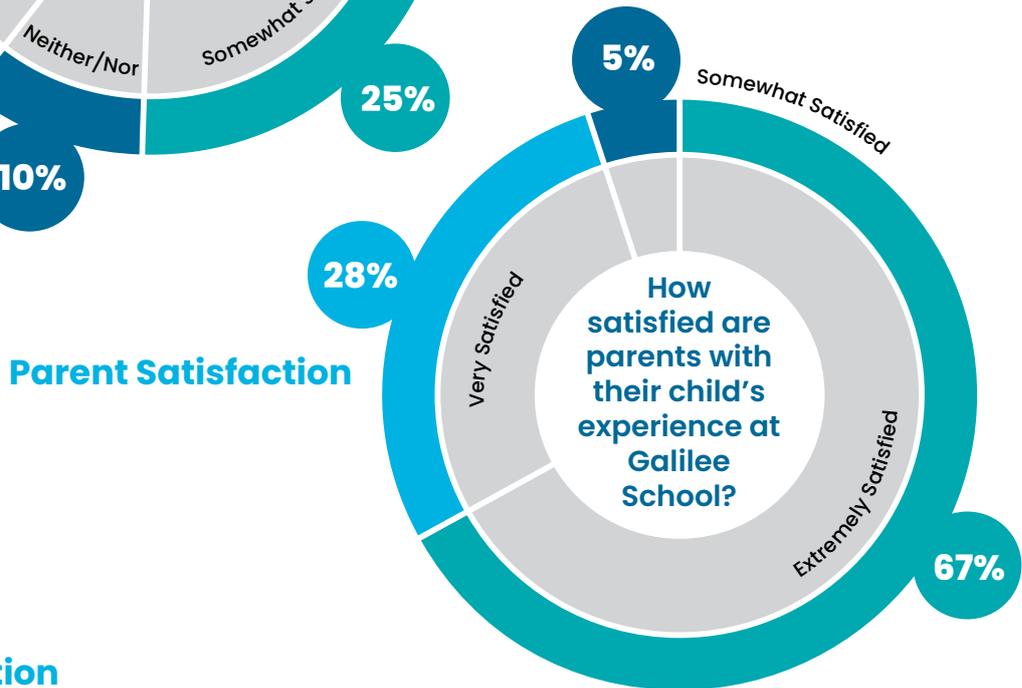
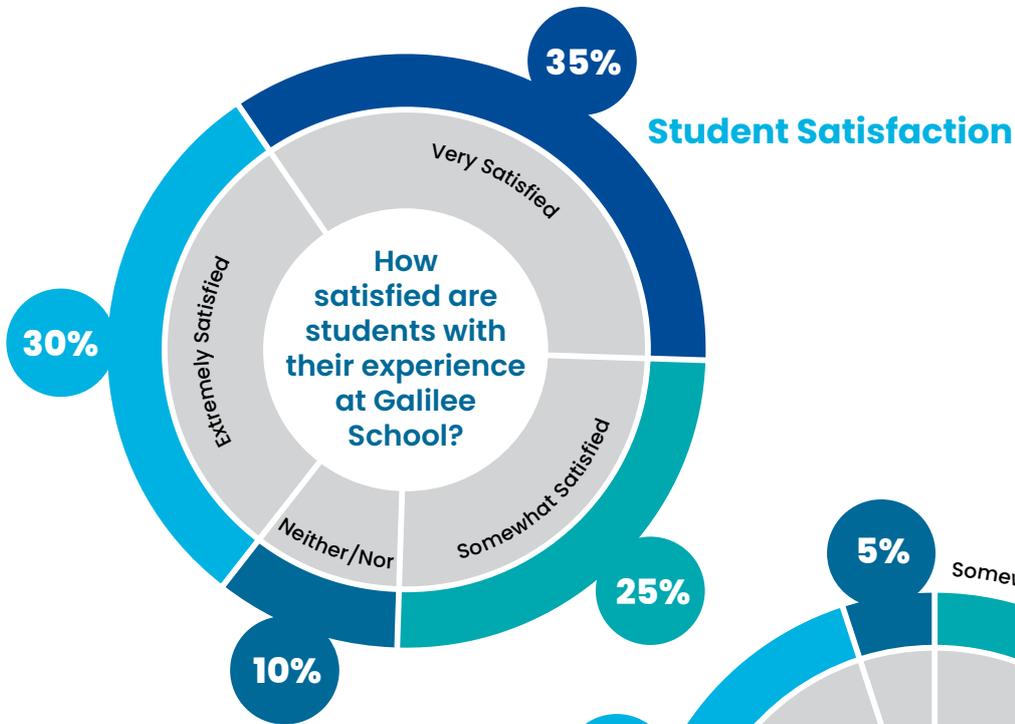
*Raylene Power-James,  
Teacher*

“ There were times when I wouldn't attend school or do my work even a little bit. But then last term of Year 10, I've really put in the effort to come to school and complete my schoolwork. It's paid off and it makes me feel proud and happy about myself, as I thought I would never get my Year 10 certificate. ”

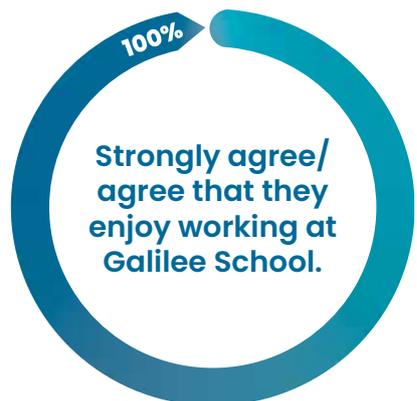
*Sibel Pak*



# SATISFACTION SURVEYS



### Staff Satisfaction



# ABOUT COMMUNITIES@WORK

Communities@Work is Canberra's largest not-for-profit community organisation and provides a range of high quality complementary services that support positive educational outcomes for children and young people, assist in alleviating hardship, enhance the quality of life and lead to positive social change. We pride ourselves on the positive contribution we make to the lives of all members of our community.

## Our Mission

To enrich the lives of people in our community in life changing ways.

## Our Values

Integrity | Respect For All | Progressive | Quality and Innovation | Sustainability

## Our Services

### Children's Services

12x Early Education and Care Centres.  
16x Out of School Hours Care Services.  
10x School Holiday Programs.  
Family Day Care.  
In-Home Care Services.

### Galilee School

An independent high school for disengaged young people in Years 7-10.

### Food, Clothing and Accommodation

2x community pantries.  
1x pre-loved clothing store.  
7x transitional housing sites.  
1x clothing program.  
Crisis support.

### Disability and Senior Support

Community transport.  
Recreational and skills development programs.

### Community Development

Partnerships with local government, business and individuals to implement a range of community-inspired initiatives to develop more connected communities.

### Qualifications and Professional Learning

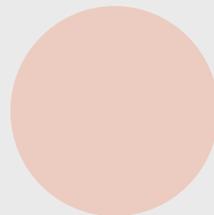
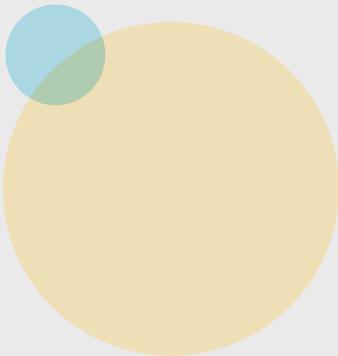
1x award-winning registered training organisation delivering Certificate III and Diploma qualification in early childhood education and care and business administration studies.

## Get Involved

There are many ways you, your family, or your organisation can get involved to help Communities@Work deliver our services. Galilee School is always grateful for community and business donations to support the delivery of educational services to disadvantaged youth. To find out more, visit: [www.commsatwork.org/get-involved](http://www.commsatwork.org/get-involved)

## Financial Statements

Copies of the 2019 audited Financial Reports for Galilee School are available from the School Principal. They are also available on the Communities@Work's website, under 'About Us – Annual Reports'.



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