

News from Nungalinya

with Emily Quinn • September 2025



It is the Larrakia season of Gurrulwa Guligi – big wind time. We are enjoying the last glorious days of the Dry while noticing the changes; the mornings are still tinged with cool air, but now the mango trees are heavy with (still green) fruit and humidity is beginning to creep back into the days.

During August, I was able to attend the 2025 Anglican conference: Faith, Hope and Love: a faithful church response to domestic & family violence. Although family violence is a big issue in Indigenous communities (as elsewhere), I went more with my *Anglican Diocese hat* on rather than a Nungalinya one. In the NT, it can be especially easy to think of family violence as something 'out there', rather than in the midst of our mainstream churches, but statistics tell us otherwise.

Despite the heavy nature of the material, it was an encouraging – and yes, hopeful – gathering. We had over 100 delegates, from 19 of the 23 dioceses, more than a quarter of whom were men. The conference helped me think about the work my own church community can do, and I enjoyed reporting back to both services.

Faith, Hope and Love was held over two days at St Jude's in Melbourne. I was able to see some family the weekend before, as well as enjoy a few days of cold weather and big-city time. I also visited one of my supporter churches, Deep Creek Anglican. Being able to visit in person makes such a difference. This was my second visit, and I really enjoyed reconnecting with people there.

Here at College, we are in the middle of Block 5 – the second

last for the year. My own EAL class is small, just six students, while the Cert I class has expanded to about 24! There is no real way of knowing ahead of time how the numbers will pan out. We also have a healthy-sized Cert II class, a Bininj Kunwok translation class (in their second year), a first-year Cert IV class, and a graduating Yolngu Matha class.



St Jude's in the late winter sun

We have had the privilege of graduating some students over the last few blocks. Graduations work in different ways for different courses. Some courses are designed so that a cohort moves through successive years together, culminating in a 'big' graduation evening, complete with robes, speeches, and supper.

Other courses, with an emphasis on a particular community, will

Main Image: Magpie Geese on the lawns of Nungalinya College

Circle Image: Emily Quinn

Middle Image: Emily at the Faith, Hope & Love Conference

Bottom Image: Coffee on a freezing Lygon Street in Melbourne

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acknowledge the completion of a course briefly but have the actual celebration back on country.

Foundation Studies courses run in three-year cycles, but new students can join in any of those years (A, B, or C), and indeed in any of the six or so blocks that run throughout the year.

The upshot is that each class will usually have one or two students completing their third rotation, and we acknowledge this with a 'mini' graduation in chapel on their last morning.

The student is presented with a certificate, we take photos, and someone (the dean, an elder, or a church representative) prays. I was worried that this might not seem like much, but the students take it seriously and feel a genuine sense of pride and accomplishment.

Please give thanks for the students who have graduated this year and pray for them as they return to their communities.

While Nungalinya is a Bible College, it is also a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) operating in the VET (Vocational Education and Training) space. The great advantage of this is that our courses are accredited and nationally recognised, as well as attracting significant government funding. The challenge is that we must always be aware of

complying with the guidelines set out by ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority). While these guidelines are good in themselves, they can be very detailed, and they have recently undergone significant changes.

As a teaching staff, we have been doing more professional development around ASQA frameworks, which is valuable but not always easy – and, for many of us, not what we are naturally drawn to.

Pray for staff and students as we prepare for the final teaching block of 2025

Pray for wisdom as we continue to navigate compliance and changes in the VET sector while keeping our focus on God's Word & mission.

As we move towards the final teaching block of the year, we look forward to celebrating more graduations and the achievements of our students.



Please pray that students will finish the year well, that staff will have energy and wisdom for all the demands, and that the joy of learning will continue to grow across our classes. Pray also for staffing: we are looking for a new Finance Manager, a vital role.



Green mangoes sit heavily on a tree

With grateful thanks for your support,

Emily

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