INSPIRATION FLOWS

Yalata’s Blue house has re-opened with a fanfare of drums and guitars and the promise of exciting new programs.

The community had a chance to inspect renovations during the official opening and barbecue.

The Blue House, a former centre for drug and alcohol programs, closed several years ago.

YCI and Tullawon Health refurbished it for a new lease of life as a men’s drop-in centre.

In its first fortnight, John ran painting workshops under with great success.

A steady stream of painters and visitors from teenagers through to older men came through the door to work. There was plenty of mentoring and bonding between a cross section of ages.

John will return to run further programs in January and March.

Community manager Danny Shorthouse welcomed the reopening of the Blue House as a positive step.

“The men needed some-where to go,” he said.

Danny said there were plans to kit out the house with its own music equipment.

Tullawon’s Paul Henrys plans to work in the Blue House.
ELECTIONS VOTE IN NEW COUNCIL

Jamie Edwards will lead Yalata’s council after newly-elected council members voted him in as chairman during the council’s first meeting.

The new Yalata Community Inc board is Jamie Edwards (chair), Pauline Edwards, Trevor Bryant, Patrick Edwards, Dora Queama, Braddon Queama and Keith Peters.

Proxy members are Matthew Finlay, Brian Queama, Roderick Day, Rita Bryant, John Mungee and Paul Crombie.

Elections ran on December 9, with the eligible voters divided into six family and skin groups with each voting for candidates from their own group.

The board’s term is two years. The previous board was elected in April 2007.

POLICE SET THEIR GOALS IN YALATA

Yalata has two experienced policemen on the beat with Senior Constable Chris Boyce and Senior Constable Daryl McCormack taking up positions in the community earlier in the year.

The pair brings 70 years of policing experience to Yalata. They have placed petrol sniffing and drinking high on their hit lists.

“We’d like to stamp out sniffing and make it a safe and happy community,” Sen Const McCormack said.

A crack-down on grog running has cut the rate of alcohol-related fights had fallen. Sen Const McCormack reminded community members that under the existing laws the police had the power to seize cars carrying alcohol.

He has been in the force for 34 years and previously worked in Coober Pedy, Oodnadatta, the APY lands, Cowell, Amata and Ceduna. He hopes to stay another two and a half years.

They struck up a friendship a few years ago when Sen Const McCormack was working in Coober Pedy and Sen Const Boyce was in Maree. Before coming to Yalata, Sen Const Boyce worked in the Riverland.

Meanwhile, Brian Queama has retired as Community Constable after more than 20 years in the job. Roy Day is still working as Yalata’s other Community Constable.
RAIN FAILS TO DAMPEN SPORTS FUN

Seventy students from remote Australia have tested their skills and speed against each other in a two-day sports carnival.

Students from Yalata, Oak Valley and Tjuntjuntjara schools took part in the annual Spinifex Sports Week in Yalata.

The carnival began on a wet Wednesday morning with a parade through the community before moving to the oval for the sprint events.

The rain failed to stop some standout performances.


Georgie Mattig and Nathan Rigney won staff sprints.

After the relay events, former AFL footballers Andrew Crowell and Chris Massie talked to the students about training as an elite athlete, eating good food and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

With 14mm of rain falling in Yalata throughout the day, the students headed inside for videos until lunch.

Despite the rain, students were keen to play an afternoon soccer game. The traditional Spinifex Sports football and softball matches were rained out. That night everyone enjoyed a community barbecue.

Skies cleared the next morning and the carnival headed to Mexican Hat Beach, with Oak Valley and Tjuntjuntjara students enjoying a rare beach day of swimming and games. Whales frolicked offshore as students surfed, played cricket, kicked the footy and took part in egg and spoon races.

Indigenous Project Officer Jack Johncock and his crew organised a hotly contested interschool tug-o-war competition.

That evening SAPol ran an outdoor disco on to cap off a great carnival. Yalata School Principal Roxanne Ware was delighted with the event.

“We had a good time despite the weather on the Wednesday, and Thursday was a beautiful day at the beach,” she said.

“It’s a wonderful way to finish the term and we look forward to going back to Tjuntjuntjara next year.”
Juniors set sail for Port Lincoln

Lower Primary students at Yalata School have spent a rewarding week in Port Lincoln.

The day after a long bus trip, the students got to take turns driving a tourist boat to a tuna farm. There they handfed pilchards to the tuna. Kiara and Georgie swam with the tuna amid a big swell from a storm the night before.

The class visited an animal farm and the students got to pat sheep and kangaroos as well as feed the guinea pigs and rabbits. Everyone was scared of the ostrich because it kept following them along the fence. Birds in the aviary sat on their hands and heads.

The biggest highlight was swimming at the aquatic centre when the kids got to go down the big waterslide and jump off the swing rope.

YOUTHS CONFIRM FAITH

Eighteen youths confirmed their faith in a special coming of age ceremony at Yalata Lutheran Church in November.

The youths had completed eight weeks of evening classes about the key Christian teachings including the Lord’s Prayer, Apostle’s Creed and 10 Commandments.

They also talked about telling right from wrong, forgiveness and looking out for people in the community.

The confirmees, led by Pastor Russell Bryant, went in a procession through the church to their front row seats at the start of the service.

They then gathered around the altar for the ceremony.

A hundred and ten family members, relatives and friends came to support the youths and afterwards enjoyed a barbecue lunch, cake and ice-cream.

Proud parents, uncles and aunties lined up for photos as their sons, daughters, nephews and nieces became adults in the church.
MARALINGA THUMPED APY THUNDER BY SIX GOALS TO WIN THE ANNUAL INDIGENOUS FOOTBALL MATCH AT AAMI STADIUM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR YEARS.

The game, a curtain-raiser for a match between the Crows and Carlton, was part of the AFL’s indigenous round.

Maralinga had its sharp-shooting boots on, kicking 21.4 130 to APY’s 14.10 94.

But for many of the players from Yalata, the celebrations were just the beginning of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The new twist in 2009 meant that the top 10 players from each team were invited to play in the inaugural Desert Spirit Cup at the MCG the following weekend.

A handful of Yalata men flew across to Melbourne as part of the Anangu All Stars team to play Northern Territory’s Yuendumu. Training was broken up with trips around the city including to the aquarium and MCG Hall of Fame.

On May 30, the Yalata men got to live out childhood dreams of playing on football’s sacred ground, with the Anangu All Stars beating Yuendemu by 47 points to claim the newest and biggest prize in Indigenous football, the Spirit of the Desert Cup.

FAMILIES LEARNING TOGETHER AT TAFE

It’s been good to see families coming to TAFE together. Bruce and Marilyn have attended TAFE to learn computing and have gained keyboard and internet use skills.

This year a number of people have passed their learners permit and now need to work on their 50 hours of practice driving which is required to move onto P’s. When several L-platers have their almost completed their logbook hours I can book them in for practice driving with the instructor from Pt. Augusta. Then he can take people for their driving test. People can go for their licence with the police at any time once they have completed the logbook. Congratulations to all people who passed their learners.

I went to Oak Valley for a week last month and delivered a unit from Certificate I in Resources and Infrastructure to CDEP participants. Eleven people attained the first of six units. The remaining 5 units of this course will be delivered at Oak Valley a week each month until June next year.

Yalata TAFESA will deliver Certificate 1 in Resources and Infrastructure delivered on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday all day and Thursday morning next year.

On Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings in 2010, women have a chance to learn computing and Family Wellbeing at TAFESA in conjunction with Kristy from the Women’s Group.

Next year I’m looking forward to working alongside Roxanne Ware at Yalata School again, supporting VET programs initiatives, work experience and licences for senior students.

I invite anyone to come in to discuss learning interests and needs with me.

I wish you all a healthy and happy festive season and I look forward to returning to Yalata Community in 2010. Regards, Sandy Taylor.
Yalata man Russell Bryant scored two big wins in June - he played in an AFL team which lifted a premiership cup on the MCG and was ordained as a Lutheran pastor.

He now becomes possibly the only Lutheran minister to have played a full game of footy on the MCG – and as the oldest member of his team – 38 years old on game day.

On a bright winter’s day in late June in Yalata, President Mike Semmler ordained Russell in front of 250 community members and visitors.

Russell himself summed up the occasion simply and perfectly when the editor of the local newspaper asked him why he wanted to be a pastor.

“I want to tell people about God,” he said.

The ordination day was a fitting finale of the work and effort Russell has put into training as a pastor.

The service was held outside as the church wasn’t big enough. It began with the Yalata ladies singing “Just a closer walk with thee” as Mike Semmler led a procession of pastors up the middle of the congregation.

Pastor Keith Peters, who mentored Russell in his younger years to help him become a pastor, led the liturgy.

Lindsay Thomas, Russell’s friend and study companion in the last couple of years, read about the call of the prophet Jeremiah before President Mike gave a message on 2 Timothy 2: 15: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

During the ordination, Russell’s mother and one of the stalwarts of the church in Yalata, Rita Bryant, presented him with a handmade cross to hang around his neck while Melvina Smart hung a red stole around his neck, one of five she and Rita hand-painted with symbols.

Greetings came from all directions and community chairperson Mima Smart shared her delight and that she never knew that one of the students she helped to teach at school would become a pastor.

Nine pastors in total, including Pastor Peter Pfitzner and Pastor Marcus Wheeler from Hermannsburg – attended the occasion.

Former Yalata lay workers Colin and Ruth Hayter presented Russell with an Ordination cake and everyone feasted on roast beef, sausages, vegetable stew and cake.

It was a wonderful day of fellowship and was well supported by Ceduna Lutherans who made the trip out to Yalata.

Russell has been involved in on-the-job worship and ministry training as well as study in Darwin and at the college in Adelaide for eight years. He graduated from his Certificate III in Theology at Darwin’s Nungalinya College in November 2008.
SENIORS HAVE A BLAST IN ADELAIDE

Senior students from Yalata and Oak Valley had a trip of a lifetime to Adelaide.

For some students, it was their first time to the big smoke and everything was new and exciting.

The students stayed at a campsite at Mylor in the Adelaide Hills.

One of the first things they saw was shopping at West Lakes and then watching Port Power take on Hawthorn. Much to everyone’s delight, Port won and effectively knocked the Hawks out of the finals.

The students got to eat at Alberton Oval bistro and Port Coach Mark Williams chatted to them for 20 minutes. They had a tour of the clubrooms and watched the team train, with five boys going out on the oval behind the goals to kick the footballs back to the players.

Later in the week they went to Monarto Zoo and saw lions, giraffes, zebras, and chimpanzees and other animals. But it seemed the familiar animals were the biggest hit. When the bus stopped next to three beautiful cheetahs lying around in the sun, no one seemed very interested. Suddenly one of the kids yelled, “Look – there’s a rabbit!” and everyone rushed to the other side of the bus to see the bunny bounding across the grass.

On the last day the students had a go on the flying fox. Some were scared but everyone had a go and for many, that was the highlight of the camp.

Work begins on new classrooms

Workers have begun building a new classroom block at Yalata Anangu School.

When completed early next year, the building will house four new classrooms, a teachers prep room, a time-out room and a storage room.

The Federal Government provided funding under its economic stimulus package.

The new building is on the same site as the classrooms it is replacing.

The school also plans to build a new office and staffroom next year.
CDEP GARDEN TRIAL
HAS A SWEET START

A Yalata CDEP trial to grow fresh vegetables for markets has shown potential with sweet corn, snow peas and garlic thriving despite a recent heatwave.

CDEP manager John said the Yalata workers had a growing affection for the garden.

“They come and water without my supervision because they love seeing things grow,” he said.

“We have water, sun and labour. What else do you need?”

He chose fragile snowpeas to test if they could survive the summer’s extreme heat and they passed the first challenge of a week-long heat spell in mid November.

Constant water and ground protection with mulch proved it could be done.

But it’s garlic that could prove to be the staple crop for Yalata, with imports dominating local markets and a potential to cash in on a superior, locally grown product.

“It has a nine-month growing period and we’d stagger the plantings for two big crops in a year. We’d keep the cash flow going with cut bunches like parsley, coriander, beetroot tops.

Watermelon, rockmelon, tomatoes are also on the list.”

If all goes well, the garden will be expanded to five acres under bird netting with the income generated supporting four full-time jobs.

Another 10 traineeships tied to TafeSA certificates such as horticulture might spin-off from the garden and other projects.

The trial comes as CDEP nationally undergoes a major revamp with more emphasis on the end-goal of getting people trained and ready for work.

Community manager Danny Shorthouse said Yalata’s new CDEP action plan would generate work for people through increased and targeted training opportunities preparing people to start their own enterprises.

“The aim is to get some small businesses up and running,” he said.

Danny said tenders were now out for the redevelopment of Yalata TafeSA. He hoped work would begin early in the new year.
SHANNON NOLL BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER

Shannon Noll sang his way into the hearts of Yalata and Oak Valley community members when the Christmas Train rolled into Watson.

Noll sang three of his hits including Drive, Shine, and What About Me before leading the Yalata kids in Santa Claus is Coming to Town.

When he finished singing, he took off his hat and put it on Nathan Boogar’s head.

The Yalata and Oak Valley students sang two songs for Shannon.

Santa stepped off the train and was mobbed by the school kids. He dug into his sack handed out soccer balls, footies, backpacks, and lolly bags.

Many of the Indian Pacific passengers said the unexpected stop was the highlight of their journey, which began in Sydney a couple days before and was heading to Perth.

Many community members camped at Watson overnight to avoid an early morning start.
YALATA YOUTHS CAP OFF BIG YEAR

Yalata youths are winding down with a school holiday program after a busy year of activities.

Youth Worker Christine van Leeuwen and partner Matthew Finlay were gearing up for holiday programs late last week with older youths starting drawing and painting classes and younger kids competing in soccer games.

Regular new programs include:

**Monday:** Cooking classes for teenage girls with Lauren Peel

**Wednesday:** Afternoon basketball games

**Friday:** Art therapy class – painting and drawing

Christine said it had been a big year with plenty of highlights.

“Not long ago we had the Vibe 3-on-3 basketball competition and Nadine Windlass won the prize for the best overall player at the tournament,” she said.

“And our two girl’s teams - under 16s and under 18s - won finals for their age.”

Christine and Matthew took youths in for training and football matches throughout the football season, with some going on to enjoy finals success.

Warren Boogar played against Nathanial Williams and Galvin Jack in the Colts grand final, with Warren’s Westies winning the flag over Thevenard on the big day.

Youths also attended the annual Naidoc Ball in the June holidays. They had their hair cut and coloured and the girls picked out dresses before a fun night of dancing and socialising.

Earlier in the year, Christine and Matthew took a group of youths for a trip to Melbourne – the first time many of them had left the state.

Other highlights included a soccer tournament in Ceduna, beach trips, sleepy lizard hunting, spotlighting and a camp to Mexican Hat in the September school holidays.
Left: Russell Bryant, Lindsay Thomas and Doris Bryant and kids hold up a prize goanna during a local hunting trip
Below: Wesley, Vaughan, Warren, Swayne and Clifton get ready to play for Westies.

Right: Yalata pool is still the place to cool off during hot weather. After the end-of-year school concert, SAPol ran the first Blue Light Disco in the pool with lots of fun.

Below: Georgie’s Lower Primary class performed a Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer play at the end of year concert.

Right: Alyssa’s reception class kept the audience amused with their guitar rendition.

YALATA COMMUNITY
CLEAN UP CONTINUES

Workers are continuing to clean up the community. They have demolished one of the original buildings, a derelict ration shed, and the former church storage shed. They also carted away a mountain of rubbish and shrubbery north of the church and spread down piles of the dust-busting shell grit to beautify the now-vacant area.