

# AICS NEWS

Issue 11

Aboriginal Independent Community Schools

June 2009

## AICS CONFERENCE 2009



*Above: Aboriginal Independent Community School delegates and Support Unit staff pictured outside the venue on the final day of the conference. More pictures inside.*

Once again delegates from the 14 Aboriginal Independent Community Schools gathered for their annual conference towards the end of Term 1 this year. The conference presents a great opportunity for schools to share common concerns, interests, innovative ideas and support for the work they do in providing education to Indigenous students around Western Australia, the majority of whom are located in extremely remote, thinly resourced locations.

The conference also provides a good opportunity for familiar faces to catch up and get together in person as well as for new Principals to meet people from other schools and acquire a broad overview of the Schools as a whole.

Some of the main topics covered in this year's conference related to Early Childhood Education, Numeracy Projects in AIC Schools, enhancing the roles of Indigenous staff, the Australian Government's new funding regime, and new technology to allow schools to better cater for students with hearing impairment.



**More Conference photo's on page 5**

## January Professional Development (26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>)

*Katie Pinchas (AL Consultant— Broome)*

All preparations were thrown to the wind after a convoy of 4-wheel drives, filled with teachers and presenters, were confronted with a road closed sign at Wilare Bridge Road House on the way to the Fitzroy Crossing PD on Australia Day. A healthy wet season had washed away stretches of the highway and Hardman Creek Bridge, so for the first time in ten years the PD had to be relocated to Broome. Those who had made it to the Fitzroy Lodge from the other side of the highway enjoyed a spectacular scenic flight into Broome to attend the revised PD location. The PD commenced a day late, but the adaptability and good spirits of all who attended, lead to a successful conference. The low teacher turn-over allowed extension work in Accelerated Literacy and Reading to Learn for returning teachers while the new teachers completed PD1. Thanks to the generosity of Notre Dame University, we were able to use a lecture theatre for combined sessions on Assessment, Mandatory Reporting and training in First Steps Numeracy.



*Above: Hardman Creek Bridge washed*

Luckily, the Perth PD went according to plan and Pilbara and Southern AIC schools enjoyed a well orchestrated three-day conference at the All Seasons in Northbridge. By having all of the AL consultants attend both conferences, sessions were split into three phases: Junior Primary, Middle/ Upper Primary and Secondary to better accommodate teaching and learning needs. The inclusion of EALD planning and extension workshops for returning teachers on Writing, Viewing and Reading Comprehension were very well received. Thank you to all who participated.

## Walmajarri Book Project in the News

*The following information is taken from an article written by Irene Jimbidie for the 'Karrayili Adult Education Centre Newsletter 2008'*

One of the highlights of Yakanarra Annex for this year was when Rosie Vanbee, Mary Vanbee, Katrina Jimbidie, Martha Costaine, Jessie Moora and June Kylie started a project with Eirlys Richards (Linguist aka Yijayi) and myself to write Walmajarri Stories with English translations and illustrations.

These books can then be used in schools as text books, for others to read about Walmajarri stories and as part of our oral history. Students will continue to make more books in the future.



*Above: Jessie Moora, Mary Vanbee & Martha Costaine preparing the books with Karrayili teacher Irene Jimbidie*



*Above: Jessie laminating*



*Above: Jessie Moora reading the books to the Yakanarra school children*



*Above: Putting a book together*

## 2009 AISWA Broome Conference (27 April—1 May)

*Josh Bell (AL Consultant— Broome)*

The Cable Beach Club Resort again proved to be an ideal venue for the 2009 AISWA Broome Conference sessions and presentations. In addition we utilised the Rendezvous Hotel for AEW sessions, which also provided a lovely setting for presentations. Accommodation were booked within easy reach of both these venues.



The Professional Learning Seminars were attended by staff of AIC Schools from all over Western Australian, not to mention AISWA and AICS staff.

The 56 sessions on offer were very diverse including sessions on Literacy, Numeracy, LOTE, Science, ICT, ESL, Physical Education, VET, Asthma, Hearing Impairment, General Classroom Practice, PATHS, Mandatory Reporting, School Funding Arrangements, and Attendance. The feedback from teachers for these sessions was fabulous. Congratulations and thankyou to all AISWA, AICS and guest presenters for providing such a valuable professional learning opportunity for AIC Schools.

It was an extremely busy week with many sessions/meetings starting at 7am and then sundowners finishing after 6pm. Despite the long days, teachers still found it in themselves to catch up socially each evening. Some teachers even found it possible to take a dip in the beautiful Indian Ocean during the lunch break.

Open mic night at Murphy's Bar proved a hit with many of our teachers performing for the crowd. What a talented bunch we are at AICS! What can you expect after teachers have been subjected to the raw energy of MC Brenzone, freestyle rapping his way through his Transformations presentation. The annual AICS BBQ on the Cable Beach lawn was again well attended and enjoyed by all.

It was terrific to hear the Edith Cowan University staff talk so glowingly about our apparent enthusiasm and enjoyment for living and working in remote indigenous communities. This was great to hear.

Thanks for a great week everyone.



## AEW in action at the Broome Conference

Claire Leong (LOTE)

The AEW conference program was an opportunity for AEWs from across all the AICS schools to share experiences, have a yarn, learn from one another, take risks and spend some time in one another's company in an informal and supportive environment.



AEWS spent one and half days thinking about their language programs. Claire Leong, languages consultant at AISWA, shared with AEWs what was happening internationally and nationally with languages education. Participants were walked through issues related to globalization and climate change, the resulting changing educational landscape, national initiatives with education and languages education and issues and changes specifically Western Australian. And that was the start!



Claire then asked participants to think about how they learn their first language and the importance of rich, sustained input for language learning to take place. To demonstrate this she ran a French class entirely in French for the AEWs. They played games, participated in role plays, worked in pairs and all had a go at asking for a drink in French, which is in case you were wondering or needed reminding, "Je voudrais... un café, un the, une lemonade, un jus d'orange" etc..



The group talked a lot about the importance of speaking first and writing later and the fact that kids can learn large chunks of grammatically complete text without having to understand the intricacies of grammar. Patsy Bedford and Siobhan Casson joined the group for discussions about how the community can support the languages program and the importance of children having opportunities to speak outside of the classroom with a range of speakers.



Jan Ladhams and Bev Russ engaged the group mathematically and philosophically! THE AEWs and some teachers who joined the group learnt about the counting principles and then learnt some games to use in the classroom which would consolidate these principles. Some of the games can be found on the CD each participant was given. Numero was a big hit!



Jan and Bev also encouraged everyone to think about their own philosophy of teaching and learning.

Participants started their own draft versions. The children were even catered for in the Rendezvous resort pool! We look forward to more learning from one another next year.

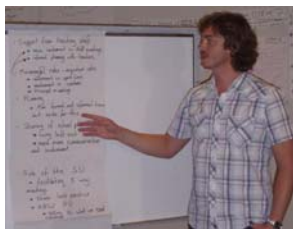
## Goodbye to Therese..

For more than 9 years Therese Bamford was the friendly and helpful voice of the AICS' Support Unit. Those who got to know her well understand that her contribution to AICS will continue well beyond her time with us. She made it her business to get to know those who worked for the Schools, establishing lasting friendships in the process. She also made it her business to set up systems that made the SU's operation more efficient and in turn, the SU more accessible to the schools. While she has left the SU, she continues to work with AISWA as the Program Officer for CGA, working especially in the Australian Government National Computer Fund.



As an expression of the AIC Schools' appreciation of her friendship and commitment to their development she was presented with two paintings produced by Yiyili and Yakanarra artists - fitting gifts for a valued friend and colleague.

## AICS 2009 CONFERENCE



## The return of JH!

*Danny Pinchas (Numeracy Consultant— Broome)*



After seven and a half years of excellent service to the AICS Support Unit, and many more years working in the Kimberley, John Hill had decided a break was in order. He spent a year catching up with family back in Queensland and travelling around the world including places such as Canada and Europe. On his return to the Kimberley, John worked at Marra Worra Worra in his old stomping ground Fitzroy Crossing, as well as facilitating a WOSI project for AICS developing School / Community Partnership Agreements. He even managed to squeeze in another overseas adventure, this time in India, following the calamity that

was the touring Australian cricket team.

We are very fortunate to welcome back John Hill to the AICS Support Unit, as his vast knowledge, experience and relationships with many community members and staff across the AIC Schools has and will help schools in need.

## Maths Taskforce Arrives in Broome...

*John Hill (Coordinator — Broome)*

In August 2008 Danny Pinchas started work with the AICS Support Unit team in the Broome office, joining his wife Katie who is an Accelerated Literacy Consultant for AIC Schools.

Danny works as a Numeracy Consultant and coordinates a project called "Resilient Professional Numeracy Network" in Kimberley AICS. Danny visits schools and works closely with teachers, Aboriginal Education Workers and students, assisting schools with their maths programs. Whilst at schools Danny does observations and demonstration lessons, helps with planning, and also conducts Professional Development sessions for staff. The project has also included some joint Professional Development workshops for all Kimberley AICS teachers, coordinated by Danny.

The project is proving a great success and Danny is to be complemented for his expertise, enthusiasm and excellent manner in working with schools. It's not surprising Danny works well in Kimberley AICS, as he has previously been a teacher at Purnululu School and Principal of Nyikina Mangala School!



## New face in the Support Unit—Steph Snyman

At the beginning of April, Steph joined the Support Unit in Perth as the new Admin Support Officer— taking over from Therese Bamford.

She and her family have recently moved to Perth after 4 years in London, where she has worked as the PA to the Director of Finance at Macmillan Cancer Support. Prior to her time in London, Steph held a position as Departmental PA at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa.



Steph said: 'I feel lucky to have joined John Hill on a recent road trip, visiting 5 schools in the Kimberley. It was an awesome experience and I have met some pretty amazing people. I loved the beautiful setting of all the schools and appreciated the dedication of the staff. Thank you to all for making me feel welcome and showing me your schools.'

## Changes in AIC Schools

A number of AIC Schools have had changes for the 2009 education year, we would like to say welcome to the following people:

2009 has seen relatively little staffing change in the Kimberley schools, with many teachers from 2008 staying on for another year.



*Kylie Wrankmore*

This includes three teachers Steph (Nyikina Mangala), Matty Braid (Yakanarra) and Kylie Wrankmore (Kulkarriya) who completed internships in our schools last year and have returned for their first graduate

teaching positions. Kylie's partner, Matt Brown also joined as tutor.



*Matty Braid*



*Matt Brown*



*Campbell Benson*

New teachers to join the Kimberley AIC Schools for 2009 are Campbell Benson (Yiyili), Niek van Riel (Kulkarriya),



*Niek van Riel*

Mary Crane (Purnululu) and Andrew (Nyikina Mangala).



*Mary Crane*

There was a much anticipated third coming of Brad and Sherida, who have returned for a term at Wulungarra, replacing Sandy.



*Nick Try*

Three principal changes have occurred - at Yiyili, with Nick Try taking over the reins after Len Boyle's substantial 12 years in the job, at Kulkarriya, Luke Royes taking over from Nicole Dwan who's now on maternity leave and at Rawa, Lorraine Sligar taking over from James Black. We also said goodbye to Kris Lazic who taught at Yiyili for most of that time.



*Luke Royes*

The following teachers also joined schools at the beginning of 2009 —

Matthew Davies and Peta Jaggard (Strelley), Lauren Baird and Jacqui & Mark Strack (Parnngurr), Jim Sligar (Rawa), Sophie Johnson & Doreen Musiyiwa (CAPS Coolgardie), RONALDA BALEA (Kurrawang) and Darren Smith (Wongutha).

Welcome to you all!!

## Stop Press – Josh Bell is worried...



Hot off the presses comes the news that after nearly 20 years in operation the AICS Support Unit office in Broome finally has a sign!



out and he will be forced to do some work!

This has caused great rejoicing among the staff, with the notable exception of Josh Bell. Josh has expressed great concern that now the office location is known, teachers may seek him

## NALP in the news

For those who are not aware there is a National Accelerated Literacy Program (NALP) newsletter which features a number of articles from people involved in NALP from all over the country. The AL consultants highly recommend that people would take the time to have a look and download the newsletters at <http://www.cdu.edu.au/sspr/newsletters.html>



## Congratulations..

To Nicole Dwan & Luke Royes from Kulkarriya.

Nicole had a baby boy on Wednesday 27th of May - Clancy Alan Royes! Mum and Clancy are doing well.

## Diary Dates for Second Semester 2009:

### July:

- DEEWR – GRG second payment (75%)
- Term 2 finishes (3)
- Scaffolding PD—Perth (15,16,17)
- Term 3 commences (20)
- AISWA Teaching in an Independent School Seminar (22)
- AICS SU Staff Recruitment due date for return of updated school information for publication on AICS' website (31)

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- *July PD*

15–17 July in Perth, see below for more information.

### August:

- School re-registration (check correspondence from DES for specific visit date)
- ONGE Third payment—based on February census (13)
- DEEWR School Sensus—Statutory declaration (14)

### September:

- AISWA ROSLA-Due date for participation Grant Final Report (18)
- Term 3 finishes (25)
- ONGE fourth payment—based on July/August census (28)

### October:

- DEEWR third GRG payment (Adjustment payment)
- Supplementary GRG payment
- Term 4 commences (12)
- DEEWR Supplementary RG payment

### November:

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### December:

- Term 4 finishes (17)

### January 2010:

- DEEWR GRG (50%)
- DEEWR Recurrent Assistance (50%)
- AICS AL PD—Perth (27-30) - Tentative dates only
- AICS AL PD—Fitzroy Crossing (27-30) - Tentative dates only

### IMPORTANT REMINDER TO PRINCIPALS ABOUT JULY PD

The Scaffolding professional development is scheduled to take place on 15 July at the All Seasons Perth Hotel and 16, 17 July at Penrhos College, Como, Perth.

As previously notified, upon the submission of a tax invoice a lump sum payment will be made to each School, to assist with the cost of sending staff to this event.

Thank you to Principals for responding in plenty of time. A good attendance is expected across all three days.