



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 21 & 22 July—Perth PD—AL & Numeracy

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The Power and the Passion

By John Hill

As the culmination of a year long campaign to ensure continued dedicated support to the Aboriginal Independent Community Schools of WA, delegates representing the Governing Bodies of AICS met with the Minister for School Education, the Honourable Peter Garrett, in Canberra on November 23 2010. The delegates were Roland Bartlett from Culunga, Sophia Mung from Purnululu, Harry Graham from Wongutha, Elizabeth Gilligan from Yiyili, and Steve Florisson, the ex-Principal of Wongutha who coordinated the campaign.



(From Left) Steve Florisson, Roland Bartlett, Sophia Mung, Elizabeth Gilligan and Harry Graham with the Honourable Peter Garrett.

The delegates were **"passionate"** advocates and told Minister Garrett about some of the great things happening in AICS. They also presented the Minister with lots of documentation demonstrating the vibrant and successful nature of the AIC group of schools.



Roland at the site of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy

As the person with the **"power"** Minister Garrett informed the delegates that he was aware of AICS and the successful programmes running in the schools, and assured the delegates that funding specifically dedicated to support the

schools would be made available for 2011 and 2012.

The delegates found the Minister warm, interested and engaging, and came from the meeting well satisfied that the long trip from the west was worthwhile.



Roland, Sophia, Elizabeth and Harry check out Parliament House

Before returning to the airport for the flight home delegates took the opportunity to look around the grounds of Parliament House, and also to sit down and have a cup of tea with the Aboriginal Tent Embassy mob.

The delegates who undertook this daunting trip to Canberra should be congratulated by all for their great commitment to AIC Schools and their kids.

Brendan Franzone

By Ruth Clothier & Les Mack

At the end of 2010, the Accelerated Literacy team sadly said goodbye to Brendan Franzone. Although he has left the consultant team, he is still part of the AICS community, as Deputy Principal of Wongutha. Brendan cut his teeth teaching literacy to Aboriginal students at Wongutha. It was there that he began using the Accelerated Literacy methodology. Through his work at Wongutha he was approached by the University of Canberra to work with the AIC Schools as an AL Consultant in 2002. While in this role he made significant contributions to the development of proposals to the Australian Government to secure funding for the AIC Schools which saw the employment of five AL Consultants. This heralded a golden period of literacy development in the AIC Schools from 2004 – 2010.

Les Mack



My first contact with Brendan was as my AL Consultant in my four years teaching at Kurrawang. It was his support and encouragement that enabled me to feel in control of AL as a tool, and to use it in a way that brought about great results with my students. In the last four years, we worked together as fellow AL Consultants.



Working alongside him as a colleague was always fun, if at times unpredictable and quite dangerous! Throughout my years of knowing and working with Brendan, the one thing that has remained constant is his professionalism, and desire to know more about literacy and how that can bring about better outcomes for our students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him, not only for the collegial support and friendship I have enjoyed over the past 8 years, but also for the time, effort and professional contribution that he has made to the community of AIC Schools.

Ruth Clothier



'...the one thing that has remained constant is his professionalism and his desire to know more about literacy..'

Numeracy News...

By Kaye Treacy

We are now half way through the second year of the Numeracy strategy. Hasn't time flown!!

First term of this year we focussed on understanding the Numeration System, and this term we are mostly focussing on basic facts, addition and subtraction calculations.

Resources are still being developed for multiplication and division, with the professional development workshop becoming available later this term. Speak to your consultant about this if your students are ready to work on multiplication and division.

CONSULTANTS

As the Kimberley mob know, Bex left the Numeracy team to have her first child. Poppy Love was born in Broome at the beginning of May and is a beautiful healthy girl. Bex and her husband Wil are over the moon with the addition to their family. Congratulations to Bex and Wil.



Elizabeth Milne, formerly from the Perth ACIS office, was able to take over the role in the Kimberley office, which was terrific news for the continuity of the project

in the Kimberly. Welcome back Elizabeth.



Mandy Corkill has taken on the role as Numeracy Consultant in the Perth office, and will be working with Strelley, Rawa, Karilundi and Culunga. Mandy previously worked with the AISWA team as a consultant in the area of Inclusive Education, but more recently has come from Mater Dei College where she worked with teachers to set up programs in Literacy and Numeracy for students with special needs. In a previous life, Mandy was a high school mathematics teacher. Mandy will be an asset to the Numeracy Team, welcome aboard Mandy.

CANBERRRA VISIT

Les Mack, Lorraine Sligar and Kaye Treacy visited the DEEWR team, Judy Petch, Susan Barnard and Alannah Brennan in Canberra on 24th May to discuss the project so far and to showcase the AICS resources and data. We were given a very warm welcome which was great as it was freezing outside and our teeth were chattering. Our scheduled one and a half hour meeting was extended and four hours later we parted company. Although they were not able, at this stage of the year, to commit to any funds for next year, they were very supportive of the project and happy with

the project so far.

DATA for DEEWR

The second interim report for DEEWR has been completed and a copy sent out to all schools. This includes data which shows that we have made some progress in the area of Numeration. However, in some places we did not have enough data, and were not able to show enough progress.

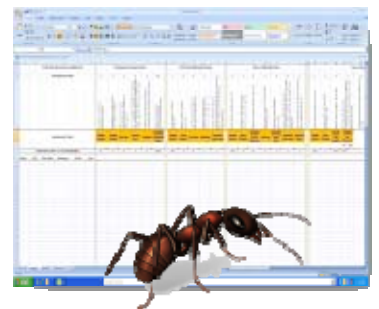
"we have made some progress in the area of Numeration."

DEEWR are very interested in our data.

They want to know whether the money they are spending on our project is making a difference. This means that what you do does matter. Every student's data entered into the ANTT is important.

Please continue to monitor your students, and capture their progress using the ANTT.

We need data in all areas of Numeration, on basic facts and addition and subtraction in the Calculate area.



Karalundi's new buildings

By David Cowled

On Thursday 19th May 2011 a Western Australian Senator, Ms Louise Pratt flew directly into Karalundi's airstrip to open their new \$850,000 multi-purpose hall funded under the "Building the Education Revolution and the \$1.641 million boarding facility upgrade funded under the Indigenous Boarding Infrastructure Program by the Australian Government.

Senator Pratt mixed freely with staff, students and invited guests over a sumptuous buffet lunch which was followed by a ceremony unveiling the plaques.



A separate plaque dedicating the new community hall to the memory of long time founding member Mr. Ken Farmer, who passed away in 2010 was unveiled by his granddaughter Bella Farmer and grandson Tate Farmer both Karalundi students.



Carmel Yeates L-R Scott Jacob – Deputy Principal, Senator Louise Pratt – WA Senator, David V Cowled – Chief Executive Officer, Trevor Wingo – Vice-Chairperson

The new hall complex comprises of a large conference room, office and kitchen and features 'rammed earth' wall construction as do other buildings, which not only makes it more environmentally friendly, but blends in with the surroundings.

This facility together with the upgraded accommodation and catering facilities means that Karalundi is now a real alternative to other organisations and community groups looking for a place to host their next conference, function or staff retreat. Couple this with our "outdoor adventure" high and low ropes course makes this a venue to be desired – a real oasis in the desert.

The latest Kimberley Island...

By John Hill



Water surrounding Noonkanbah



Teacher for a Term

By Helen Unwin

This term at Yakanarra two teachers visited America. Miss Shaylyn and Mr Matty both travelled to the USA. While they were away, Megan Wyatt came to Yakanarra taking a term's leave of absence from her Primary School on the Central Coast of NSW.

Megan has learned many things during her term at Yakanarra, especially about BBC and Kindy kids. She enjoyed the bush trips and the dancing and has many stories to take back to her school.

We all appreciated her help and work with the students and the extra work her husband, Colin also did to support the students at Yakanarra.



Wulungarra garden project

By Maggie McGuinness

These photos are from the Wulungarra garden project—funded and supported by the EON Foundation.



Walmajarri Living Culture ...

By John Hill

On the evening of May 19, 2011 a very special event took place at Mangunampi, an important traditional area for the Walmajarri people of Yakanarra Community. A corroboree telling the story of the Mangunampi spring country was performed. Dancers included adults from the community and lots of kids from Yakanarra Community School. All relished the opportunity to celebrate the living cultural traditions of the Walmajarri people.

The corroboree was organised by Beryl Dickens, Hanson Boxer and Elsie Dickens with much appreciated assistance from the Yiraman Project.

The story of Mangunampi was sung for the corroboree by Walmajarri elders Sarah McLarty, Elsie Dickens, Ned Cox and Hanson Boxer.

The rhythm of the dancers, the sounds of the clapping sticks, and the voices of the singers echoing across the night reaffirmed that Mangunampi was, is, and will always be Walmajarri Country.



Dancers at Mangunampi

Back Row : Teddy Dickens, Shannon Vanbee, Eli Kogolo, Joshua Rangie

Front Row : Kaemen Passenger, Lyle Dickens, Lanston Wallaby, Zion Cox, Keenan Vanbee, Jade Yungabun.

Thank you, from Bex

Hi all,

Just wanted to say a big thanks to everyone for the messages of congratulations and the beautiful flowers & gift. Please pass this email on to anyone I've neglected to include.

It's taken me a little while to get to writing this email because we've been so busy staring rapturously at our little bundle of joy... as well as feeding feeding feeding, sleeping when we can and doing all

those other little things involved in the care of a new baby.

Our home birth was a wonderful experience, and the care we've received in the follow up has been absolutely first rate. We feel really proud of ourselves and our little girl, and we're loving every moment of these crazy sleepless baby days.

I look forward to introducing you all to Poppy when the opportunity arises.



Thanks again,

Bex (and Wil & Poppy)



AICS Conference — March 2011

By Steph Snyman

Once again delegates from 13 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 topics covered in this year's conference related to the Numeracy Project, Accelerated Literacy, future of the SU etc.

AICS Conference — March 2011





Non Government Schools' Psychology Service

By John Hill

During Term 2 2011, Psychologists from the Non Government Schools Psychology Service have been visiting some remote AIC Schools. Although there is funding to base psychologists in Broome, unfortunately the service has been unable to fill these positions, and thus northern AIC Schools have recently suffered from a lack of support.



Tammy Bolton (centre) in front of some beautiful Yakanarra art with Luse Tamata from the Support Unit and Yakanarra teacher Steph Cresswell.

Purnululu Aboriginal Independent Community School and Yiyili Aboriginal Community School - Kylie Crump (with Ruth Clothier from the SU)

The service has been acutely aware of this issue, and to rectify the situation School Psychologists from Perth have been travelling with the intrepid team from the AICS Support Unit and establishing relationships with schools. While in schools the psychologists can be a sounding board for teachers in dealing with issues such as behaviour management. They can also run PDs for schools, and assess individual students when requested. Also once relationships are established with schools there is the opportunity for the psychologists to offer ongoing remote support.

The initial visits proved very successful, and thanks must go to Tim Wong, Consultant Senior Psychologist from the Non Government Schools Psychology Service for responding to the support issue, the visiting psychologists for their ease at fitting in, and also to Support Unit staff for organising the visits and being excellent "tour guides" for the psychologists.

Schools visited thus far :

Yakanarra Community School and Kulkarriya Community School - Tammy Bolton (with Luse Tamata and John Hill from the SU)

Nyikina Mangala Community School and Wulungarra Community School - Bas Snijder (with Luse Tamata and John Hill from the SU)

Plans are well advanced for visits to other remote AIC Schools such as Rawa, Strelley and Karalundi.

As the photos below show the Psychologists got to meet some new people, see some magnificent country, and in the case of Kylie demonstrate their prowess as a flat-tyre changer!



Kylie Crump changing a tyre!



Bas Snijder checks out the magnificent country around Kadjina Community, the home of Wulungarra Community School.

Teacher Housing Project—Kulkarriya Reno’s



Photos by Tomma Morris

I'm very excited showing you some before and after photos of the Teacher Housing renovations at Kulkarriya School.



In School Literacy Coordinators

By Ruth Clothier

In May we held our first in-school literacy coordinator’s training here in Perth. Each school nominated one person to be the coordinator of all things literacy based within their schools. This is an initiative we are trialing to provide greater support for teachers and enabling schools to become more in control of their literacy programmes.

The one day training involved firstly defining what the role could look like in each school, acknowledging it will be different for each school to best meet the needs of the staff, and the person fulfilling the role. Then we moved on to reflecting on key areas of literacy knowledge such as Vygotsky learning theory, the AL teaching sequence, text analysis and assessment. Kylie Bice also took a session on working with people and managing change, guiding us to reflect on not just how we feel about the new role, but about how other staff might feel about it. The day concluded with each coordinator planning the actions they would take until the next meeting at the end of term 3.

As consultants it was exciting to see the enthusiasm that people



had for this initiative, and the innovation in their ideas about how it could work in their schools.

Already I have heard from several of the coordinators of their conversations with their principals and staff about literacy learning in their schools. Recently I was privileged to be part of a literacy staff meeting at Purnululu as the teachers discussed ways of engaging their community and students in the learning of literacy.

With this level of enthusiasm, I’m sure that our school’s literacy programmes will continue to develop and grow, bringing about great outcomes for our students.



Wongutha Multi-Purpose Building



By Shane Meyer

On the 9th June 2011 Wongutha CAPS celebrated the Official Opening of the new B E R Multi-Purpose Building. The building provides students with a first class facility that will be used for a range of different activities including music, assemblies, visiting speakers, church services, general classes and much more.

The building is a real centre piece in the school and is surrounded by a well designed landscaping project creating a range of different areas for students to enjoy. The landscaping consists of undercover, grassed, and shaded areas and plenty of seating and space for students to relax during break times. The new building was officially opened by the C.A.P.S. Chairman Dennis Forrest. One of the highlights of the

ceremony was the performances by students Jesslyn Sampi and Jarrin Moora who both sang beautifully.

Staff, students and guests all enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea in the undercover area after the ceremony.

We would like to thank all the guests who made the trip for this special event.



Kulkarriya School Fair

By Bridget Morris

On Friday the 10th of June Kulkarriya Community School held the inaugural School Fair.

Each class ran a number of stalls selling goodies such as pancakes, toffees, cool drinks, cupcakes and jelly cups. There was crazy hair, a basketball shooting competition and the unforgettable 'School and Community Band' supplying dulcet tones from start to finish.

Despite the wind, everyone in Noonkanbah came together to enjoy a fabulous day!



National 'Sorry' Day

By Nick Try

On May 26th 2011 Yiyili School commemorated National Sorry Day with a School Based Community Assembly.

Community Elders were invited as Guest Speakers to talk about their life experiences.



each assembly item.

Each class from Kindy/Pre-Primary to High School performed a wonderful entertainment piece for their parents and families.

The teachers also got very involved and put on two acts of singing and dancing.

The High School student class were given the task of being the Masters of Ceremony. They did an excellent job of explaining what National Sorry Day is all about and introducing

A big 'Thank You' to the teachers and students for their hard work and effort.

The celebration was followed by a BBQ and the movie 'Rabbit Proof Fence'.

Yiyili School looks forward to celebrating this significant and special event every year to remember, respect and reflect on shared history and progress towards reconciliation.



"A big 'THANK YOU' to the teachers and students for their hard work and effort."

Strelley Update



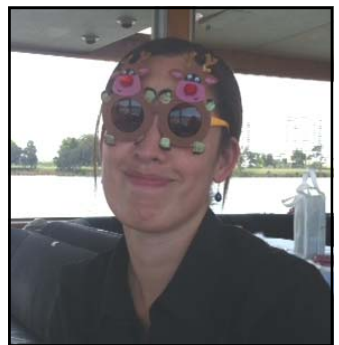
By Kate McKenzie

We are well supported by members of the community and they give willingly of their time to attend Numeracy Workshops, to go on overnight camps, day excursions and Sport Days, as well as join the Karntimarta Brush Artists, support the Books in Homes program and speak with the politicians.



Farewell to Luse

By Ruth Clothier



Luse Tamata joined our AL team early in 2010. Her experience with the AICS schools began several years earlier, as a teacher and acting principal of CAPS Kurrawang. We have appreciated her thorough, sensible approach, and her commitment to improving outcomes for Indigenous students.

Unfortunately for us, she is about to embark on a new adventure, teaching in an international school in China - we wish her well!

Wongutha Term 1 update

By Shane Meyer

There are eleven Aboriginal School Based trainees (ASBT) this year. They are all from different parts of WA. There are six female and five male trainees. They are all completing courses that will enable them to receive a nationally recognized certificate in the end.

Nine of them are doing studies in Certificate II. The four male trainees have taken up certificate II in Agriculture, while the six girls have chosen courses in Hospitality and Kitchen Operation, Retail, and Community Services in Aged Care.

These Trainees are required to complete 624 hours of Practical on the job training in 12 to 18 months.

The other two students have taken up studies in Business certificate III and Agriculture Certificate III after completing certificate II in 2010. This is the first group to do studies at this level. All the trainees get paid weekly.

The Certificate II Trainees work two days a week and go to School the other three days. The Certificate III

students work full time. These two trainees work at Wongutha CAPS, one in the Admin office and the other works on the farm and the School property.

Neil Sommerville trains the certificate II Agriculture students on the School farm.

This is an excellent venue where they are able to complete all the required units of competencies. The girls doing Certificate II studies have work places in Businesses in Esperance. They travel twice a week to work and train there.

We have a good group of Businesses and organizations in the town of Esperance that have been very supportive to the ASBT program

Esperance Transfield Services is one of them. Over the last three years they have provided work wear for all the Trainees and come up to the School to provide some practical training.



In July, this year, we have another opportunity to take the trainees to Perth for a week for work Experience with different Organizations in the city. This is one way to exposure them to work in a different work environment.

By the time the Trainees graduate, they will have had their WA Drivers P plate license or a full license, completed units of competency in Occupational Health and Safety and have a Senior First Aid Certificate which are all work place requirements.

They are doing extremely well in their work places and we have been receiving very good reports and are very proud of them.



Diary Dates for 2nd Semester 2011

July:

- DEEWR—Recurrent Grants (Schools Systems, Amalgamations and Separations) (1)
- ATP—ESL— New arrivals round 1—Open online 1 July
- **Term 2 finishes (8)**
- DEEWR—Recurrent Grants: Distance Education and Indigenous Supplementary Assistance—2nd payment (75%)
- AICS—Perth PD—AL & Numeracy (21—22)
- **Term 3 commences (26)**
- ATP—Literacy, Numeracy & Languages—2011 applications (18 July—19 Aug)
- AICS SU—Staff Recruitment (31)

August:

- ONGE—State per Capita Funding—School Census
- AISWA website update
- ONGE—State per capita funding—3rd payment due
- DEEWR—School Census—Statutory Declarations due (13)

September:

- ATP—LNSLN—2nd payment to school dependent on receipt of payment from DEEWR (30)
- **Term 3 finishes (30)**

October:

- **Term 4 commences (17)**
- ATP—Country Areas Program (CAP)—Accountability opens online **(3)** Due on (28)
- ATP—ESL—New arrivals Round 2 Applications (3)
- IE—Program Year IE Accountability (3-28)
- ATP—Literacy & Numeracy—2011 Program year Final Accountability. Forms available (3-28)

November:

- ATP—LNSLN—Scheduled 3rd payment to schools (7)

December:

- ATP—IE—Per Capita payments to schools (10)
- **Term 4 finishes (16)**