

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

January 2012 PD

Perth

- Numeracy
30/01 & 31/01
- Literacy
01/02 & 02/02

Fitzroy Crossing

- Literacy
30/01 & 31/01
- Numeracy
01/02 & 02/02

AICS Conference
27/03—29/03

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Indigenous VET Student of the Year

By Elly Welke



Wongutha student Susan Campbell won the Esperance District Workplace Vocational Education & Training in schools award for the **Indigenous VET Student of the Year**.

This is a fantastic achievement for this student who comes all the way from the small community of Nookanbah in the Kimberley. Susan does Certificate I in Business as her VET subject and has been doing work placement at the Esperance Express Newspaper.



Other Wongutha students who were nominated for this award are (from left to right in attached picture) Jayden Edgar, Katlyn Yeeda, Susan Campbell (winner), Alitina Vanbee, Walter Wicker, Jerome Morrison and Adnasha Moora (absent).

'Regrets'



By Elly Welke

A small group of students have been involved with various local agencies in making a film titled "Regrets" about choices with drugs, alcohol and road safety for the past term and a half.

The film was launched at the cinema on Monday 14th November where Wongutha students, staff, various health awareness service providers and other community members went to view it.



After the film finished, a car crash scene involving the students in the movie was staged outside the cinema where everyone moved to see the consequences of the bad choices made.



Part of the road was shut off and the local Police, Fire and Ambulance services demonstrated their response to the emergency.



Yakanarra's Year—2011

Our school is just a quiet place
Quite far from any town
But here we spend some special time
We hardly see a frown

With children who are always keen
To learn whate'er they can
There's maths and science, art and craft
And music what a jam!

We've had our share of visitors
Who help in every way
ILF, RFDS, Consultants, Teachers too,
We wish they all could stay!
New buildings too have sprung up here
A classroom you can see
There's room for all in Kitty's house
And Shaylyn's home makes three



From Kindy through to Second'ry
We've tried to do our best
We like the extra things we do
But love the weekends best

When mangoes end the final term
We'll pause and take a rest
This school is fun, the work we've done
We surely have been blessed!

Strelley News

By Kate McKenzie

A first for Strelley Community School in 2011 was to participate in an immersion program organized by Fran Kelly - Catholic Mission- with two Brisbane Schools, St Thomas More College Sunnybank Emmaus College Jimboomba. Eight year 11 students, 3 teachers and Fran spent 8 days with us immersed in the daily routines of our mob. It was a warm and rewarding experience for students, staff and our community.



Indigenous kids get the plot...

By Sarah Elks
(The Australian
22/8/2011)

A cutting-edge Accelerated Literacy program in a tiny Palm Island Aboriginal school has seized on the indigenous culture's love of a good yarn, with the young students seeing themselves as readers and writers for the first time.

The teaching method bans 'dumbed-down baby books' and sets the bar high for primary school children at St Michael's Catholic school, challenging them to read age-appropriate Australian literature.

And to the delight of school principal Gary Recklies the new teaching method appears to be working wonders.

There's one 10-year-old student, who has always been frustrated with reading anything, at an age where most children would be reading young novels,' Mr Recklies said.

'He's now got all the skills to read full sentences and identify words that in the past he wouldn't have been able to identify.

'Every class has shown a marked improvement with just about every student.'

Most of St Michael's 150 students are indigenous

and, for many, English is their second language.

Catholic Education's Jennifer Wills said the transformation had been incredible since accelerated literacy was introduced on Palm Island at the beginning of the year.

'For the first time in many of the kids' lives, they see themselves as readers and writers,' said Ms Wills, the senior indigenous education officer at Townsville's Catholic Education office.

'They're laughing and having fun and enjoying the story. Indigenous kids have an oral culture of storytelling, so they love a good yarn. This builds on that.'

The teaching method aims to accelerate indigenous children's understanding of written Australian English by having all students of the same age studying the

same quality example of age-appropriate literature, rather than tailoring the study material to their skill levels.

'If they're in Year 6, we don't teach down at the Year 2 level, even if that's what they're achieving,' Ms Wills said.

'We hold the kids up until they can do it on their own, and then we take the scaffolding away.'

The teaching method was studied by the federal government in the Northern Territory from 2004, and later rolled out in some indigenous schools across the country.

Ms Wills said the program should be extended to all indigenous school.



Literacy students Naqarne Oui, left, and Steven Williams

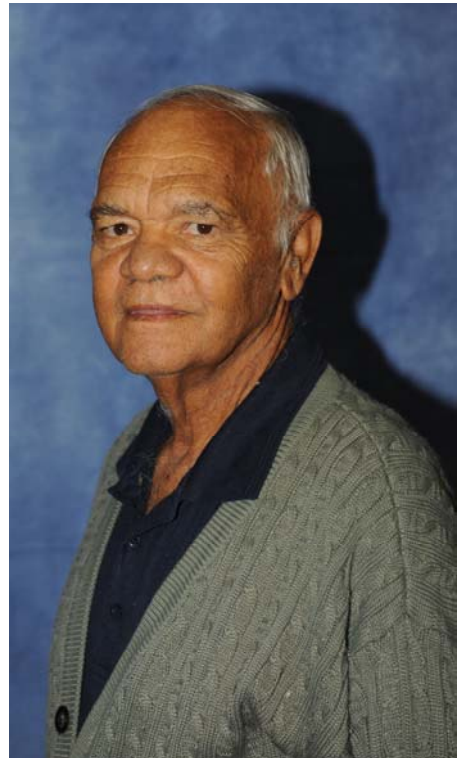
Les Tucker

Leslie Tucker, a founding member of CAPS Board and the chairman for over seventeen years passed away on his birthday. He was born at Mt Margaret on the 31st October 1939, the eldest of 7 children and is survived by his wife Kathleen Tucker and their 7 children. Les grew up in the Northern Goldfields, Kalgoorlie and Esperance. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the establishment of the AICS Support Unit, and fierce advocate for the notion of Aboriginal communities providing education for their children.

As a young man he worked with his mother and father pulling sandalwood, working on fencing contracts around stations near Laverton, and at the Darlot and Ora Banda State Batteries. He later took out a lease at the Goanna Patch gold find, having a passion for prospecting which was sparked by his father's pursuit of those elusive nuggets.

His work in education commenced when he became the first Aboriginal Education Liaison Officer in the Goldfields. His enthusiasm for this role saw him getting involved in the national education policy and program development.

It was during the late seventies and early eighties that Les and Kathy, with others, set up the first committee for the establishment



of the Christian Aboriginal Parent-directed School. His leadership resulted in the establishment schools in Coolgardie (1981) and Kurrawang (1987). In 1993 the Wongutha Farm Training Centre was handed over to the CAPS Board as a result of Les' long association with it.

Les maintained a strong commitment to the training and employment of Aboriginal people, and believed strongly in the philosophy of Aboriginal run businesses employing Aboriginal people.

Like the nuggets of gold that he searched for Les was a rare individual. He will be missed.

Karalundi—Indigenous Service Award

By David Cowled

Karalundi was presented with a certificate as one of four finalists in the Western Australia Regional Achievement and Community Awards on Friday 11th November 2011. The certificate presented by Cliff Weeks from the Department of Indigenous Affairs was accepted by Darren Farmer, Chairperson of Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community and accompanied by David V Cowled the Chief Executive Officer.

The Indigenous Service Award recognises a group or individual who has achieved outstanding outcomes for Indigenous people. The award focuses on leadership, active engagement with the Indigenous community, long-term positive impact and measurable results.

Other finalists in the category were:

- Albany Heritage Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation Inc
- City of Greater Geraldton - Reconciliation Committee
- Magabala Books, BROOME

Karalundi congratulates Magabala Books as the 2011 category winner - we are united in improving Indigenous outcomes.

Boori visits Wongutha

By Brendan Franzone

Boori Pryor visited Wongutha CAPS on the 2nd of November and had a number of fun-filled and inspiring sessions with students throughout the day. I don't think I've seen students laugh as much as they did during Boori's retelling of some of the stories and experiences he had had recently like meeting the Prime Minister, having dinner with the queen and also some of the hilarious stories from his youth. It was such a delight to see all of the students laughing together and many uncontrollably leaning over and holding their sides.

Boori also gave a strong and powerful message about believing in yourself and setting goals and really going for them. For someone who has gone through some really tough times and experienced a great deal of loss and then gone on to be an elite athlete in basketball and football, a top DJ in Melbourne and London, an accomplished musician mixing it with some of



the greats like Lauren Hill from The Fugees and Bob Marley, and an award winning author- recently winning the Prime Ministers literacy award for *Shake a Leg*, Boori has the creds and truly is a role model and inspiration to all of us.

As a result of the visit some students have started to read Boori's autobiography, others have written letters to Boori and many have been talking about him and his stories and I know that all were impacted in a positive way.

Welcome to Thea Knott

By Ruth Clothier

Thea Knott has now joined us in the AICS literacy team!

She began in Term 3 on a part time basis, and is now full time. Thea is based in Perth, but along with myself is trying to visit all schools and become familiar with the staff and the individual school contexts. She brings with her extensive experience in teaching, particularly working with students with literacy difficulties as a literacy support teacher, using the Accelerated Literacy methodology.



She has formerly been a part of the Kimberley Literacy Project and a tutor with Notre Dame University, and is currently studying for her Masters. I look forward to working with Thea and feel confident that she has much to offer in our schools.

Congratulations to Josh



Congratulations go to Josh Bell, a much loved and longstanding member of the AICS community of schools.

At a ceremony on November 9 in the magnificent hall of Perth Modern School, Josh received a WACOT 2011 Mentor Excellence Award sponsored by AISWA.

Josh's career with AICS goes back to 1998, when he and his wife, Madeleine first arrived in the Kimberley as teachers at Kulkarriya Community School. In the ensuing thirteen years, Josh has been Principal of Kulkarriya, Accelerated Literacy Consultant for AIC Schools, and now National Partnerships Consultant for AISWA working with Low Socio Economic Status Schools, such as the AIC Schools of the Kimberley and Pilbara.

As part of this latest role Josh works closely with new teachers as a mentor to ensure they receive full WACOT registration. Josh goes much further than this however by passing on his great skills and enthusiasm as a classroom teacher. Evidence of Josh's success as a mentor is the fact that he was nominated for the award by the very teachers he is mentoring.

Josh has been a wonderful asset to AICS over the years. This award is richly deserved and was greeted with universal approbation.

Grumpy old man John Hill was heard to mumble however "...Where's the award for the mentor's mentor?"

Regional Network Meetings

By Ruth Clothier

During term 3 of 2011, all AICS schools had an opportunity to be involved in regional networks meetings. One was held in Fitzroy Crossing, and one in Perth.

These meetings were designed to provide an opportunity for schools to get together for a day to discuss their assessment data critically, and think about the implications it may have within their classrooms and for the whole school. It was also an opportunity to discuss other literacy issues and share ideas, strategies and resources.

Some feedback:

"I found the PD to be really valuable. I think it is really important to listen to what other teachers do and share ideas. This really helps people to be reflective of what they are doing and also need to do. I love any chance to take a step back and be reflective and as a result I have created some new goals for next term."



"Just wanted to say that I really enjoyed and took a lot away from the PD last week. I appreciated the time talking with those teachers who had classes of the same age and discussing the strategies that each teacher uses and suggests to help students

reach the next level. Our group strayed a little from the proforma but from that we took the opportunity to moderate the work samples that were brought along which was really beneficial to me. I would love more opportunities to moderate with teachers from other schools as it was really interesting to hear the different perspectives and ideas that came from those discussions."



THE COMPLEXITY OF TEACHING

"After 30 years of doing such work, I have concluded that classroom teaching... is perhaps the most complex, most challenging, and most demanding, subtle, nuanced, and frightening activity that our species has ever invented... The only time a physician could possibly encounter a situation of comparable complexity would be in the emergency room of a hospital during or after a natural disaster."

Lee Shulman, *The Wisdom of Practise*



Karalundi Thanks You—30,000 School Dockets

By Paul Buschenhofen



Today 15 November Miss Victoria Ashwin a senior student at Karalundi and Mrs Joan Farmer a Teachers Assistant posted more than 30,000 docket to Coles under the 'Sports for Schools' program.

The 2 parcels containing the docket weighed around 4kgs. The docket had been sent to us over the last few months by many supporters from across the state and for this we sincerely thank you for this valuable contribution. Watch here for an update to show case the sports equipment that will be provided by your collection efforts.

CAPS Wongutha—Tim Ross Profile

My name is Tim Ross, I have been employed at Wongutha CAPS (Christian Aboriginal Parent-directed School) for seven years.

In the seven years I have had the opportunity to study so I can improve the way I train my students. During these wonderful years I have completed certificates in Cert IV in Training and Assessment, First Aid Trainer and recently I have completed Bachelor of Training and Development.

All my achievements would not have been accomplished without the guidance and the support of Wongutha CAPS and staff.



Congratulations Owen

Owen, a year 3 student at Nyikina Mangala, was commended by a teacher when he attended Halls Creek Primary School for a few weeks as being top of the year level!

Well done Owen!



Teacher Housing Project—CAPS Wongutha

Photos by Shane Meyer

Wongutha students are members of the work team involved in the construction of the teacher housing there. This has been integrated with the Building and Construction course, which is part of the vocational education program at Wongutha.



Kulkarriya High School Update

Try a Trade

By Samara Skinner (Y9)

On Tuesday 2nd August the high school students started a program called "Try a trade". We got to try out carpentry, with Noel from Broome TAFE. Our project was to make a tool box. First we got some wood, then we used a measuring tape to measure it. We had to cut the wood with a machine called a drop saw. Using the drop saw was fun. After that we sanded our pieces of wood with the sander. I liked it when we had to drill in the screws with a screw drill. After we finished the tool box we worked together to make a picnic table.



Wongutha Trip

On Sunday August 28th the high school students went on an excursion to Wongutha CAP School. The



trip was an opportunity for the Kulkarriya students to experience the school and Esperance with the thought of attending the school in the future. The students had a great time looking around the school and attending some of the classes. Thanks to all the teachers and students at Wongutha for making us feel welcome.



Kulkarriya Fun Run



By Kulkarriya Student Representative Council (SRC).

During third term Kulkarriya Community School Student Representative Council organised a community Fun Run. Schools were invited from all over the Fitzroy Valley to join in.



" I finished the Kulkarriya Community School Fun Run."

" I finished the Kulkarriya Community School Fun Run."

The big race took place on the 23rd of September, the day started with all participants doing a crazy exercise routine to warm up. Everyone then lined up at the start line and waited for the gun to be fired. You could choose how far you wanted to run there was 1km, 3km or 5km. In the end almost everyone did 5km, even some kindy kids. The further you went the more stamps you got and the more chances you got in the lucky prize draw. The race was about having a go and everyone who went in it got a BRIGHT orange t-shirt saying,

After the race there was lots of fruit kebabs to eat, thanks to Woolworths ,and heaps of fun activities like water sliding, badge making, basketball and yoga.



Everyone had a great day and in the end the fun run was sooooo well supported.

Every person who participated got a prize.

Kulkarriya—MP Broome Camp

By: *Bridget Morris*

On the 5th September Middle Primary trekked off to Broome for their long awaited camp!



Broome camp school was a beautiful place for us to be staying – right on the beach! We did so many skudda activities in Broome but the best things we did were ride on the hovercraft, swim at BRAC, boogie-board at Cable Beach, visit Evil Eye at the Crocodile Park, and watch a movie under the stars at Sun Pictures.



We were so tired by the time we got back to Noonkanbah, but it was definitely one of the highlights of our year!

A sad farewell.....

By *Kaye Treacy*

We have several members of the Numeracy team leaving us at the end of the year and we would like to say thank you very much for their contributions to the project.



Shirley, who has been with us since the beginning of the project, will be returning to her family in Melbourne. She and Paul are planning on retiring and travelling around to see the rest of Australia. Watch out Kimberly, here she comes!

Mandy will be taking on a position at Aquinas College to set up their learning support centre



Elizabeth is going to enjoy the Christmas break in New Zealand

We would like to say an enormous thank you to all of them for their hard work, dedication, enthusiastic passion for mathematics and teaching and for the invaluable support they have provided to the schools they have each worked in. They will all be missed very much next year

Karalundi students meet the Queen & Duke of Edinburgh

By Paul Buschenhofen

On Thursday, 27th October 2011, two senior Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community students, Vicky Ashwin and Rikeshia Corbett, accompanied the principal Dr Paul Buschenhofen to meet Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh at a State Reception in the gardens of Government House, Perth.



The girls were delighted when the Duke of Edinburgh stopped and talked to them. He asked them many questions, and they were impressed by his friendliness and interest in Karalundi.

Participating at this historic event was a memorable experience for Vicky and Rikeshia, and a great honour for Karalundi.

Karalundi was selected by the Premier's Department as one of only 76 Western Australian schools to be represented at this function.



Congratulations Clarissa



Clarissa Churchill, who attended every single day at Purnululu, began high school in Broome this year and was awarded an academic award for Year 8!



Well done Clarissa!

Numeracy Update

By Kaye Treacy

The end of the year is fast approaching. It is hard to believe that two years have gone by so quickly. This version of the Numeracy strategy began in Jan 2010, with two years of DEERW funding. The two years are coming to an end. We applied to DEEWR for funds to continue back in July, and still have not heard whether they are able to fund the continuation of the project. However, we have worked out that we will be able to continue albeit, in a much reduced form, using left over funds from this year, and contributions from schools TP funding.



William working with Jillian from Rawa

Over the past few months the Numeracy team have been working with schools on Calculate, and more recently, collecting data on Numeration. This data will be used in our report to DEEWR in March next year and will help us to apply for funding for the next quadrenium, which starts in 2013. We will also use the Calculate data, if we are able to gather enough to show trends. Although we have not amalgamated the Numeration data at this point, from discussions with the consultants and teachers, it seems that many students have made significant progress over the last two years. This is due to all of the hard work at the school level, so congratulations to all!!

We have also been working on the AICS On-Line version of our resources, using the information provided by the working group during the July holidays.



We have finished off all of the Numeration documents ready to have them uploaded by the beginning of next year. As a team we have reviewed the tasks and made some minor changes on the basis of work in the schools. The mathematics and activities sections have been tidied up and professionally edited. We have run a tender process and now have *Octane Web Solutions* creating the on-line version. During the January PD we will run a workshop on how to use the AICS On-Line version and include a session on using it to plan for the first few weeks work.

Students making a 1 – 200 chart at Wulungarra



Karalundi wins State Award

By *David V Cowled*

On Friday 18th November an award ceremony for the Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities 2011 program was held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle. Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community, as one of seven finalists in the 'General Appearance' category, was announced as the state winner.

In 2010 Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community entered the Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities awards, a 21 year old national program organised by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council. Our entry resulted in Karalundi being the overall regional winner for the Midwest region of Western Australia.

In 2011 Karalundi entered again and was the Midwest regions winner under the 'General Appearance' category, this meant inclusion for the state title. The presentation event was attended by the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Malcolm McCusker AO, CVO, QC, along with other dignitaries and community regional winners. The WA Minister for Environment and Water, the Hon. Bill R

Marmion's speech ended with Karalundi announced as the state winner under the 'General Appearance' category and was presented with a framed certificate.

David V Cowled, Chief Executive Officer of Karalundi who accepted the award, has since stated that, "this is a significant win for an Aboriginal community and hopefully will begin to break down some of the stereotyping associated with Indigenous communities. We would like to encourage other Indigenous communities like those in the Kimberley region to join in the Tidy Towns program across Australia. It not only means cleaner and healthier physical communities but acts as an important bonding activity for community members' social, physical, mental and spiritual health".

The Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities awards program in 2011 resulted in entries from 61 communities around Western Australia, the largest number of entries in the WA program's 42 year history. The overall winner for the state was West Arthur which is now a finalist for the national title.



Karalundi State Finalist

By David V Cowled

Karalundi Aboriginal Education Community Inc was announced as a finalist in the prestigious Department of Indigenous Affairs Indigenous Service Award at the 2011 Regional Achievement and Community Awards on Friday 11th November 2011 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The event hosted by Matt Tinney from WIN television was attended by 420 guests from across Western Australia including the Patron of the Awards, the Hon Brendon Grylls MLA, Minister for Regional Development.

A framed certificate was presented by Cliff Weeks, Acting Director General from the Department of Indigenous Affairs and was accepted by Darren Farmer, Chairperson of Karalundi accompanied by David V Cowled the Chief Executive Officer. The Indigenous Service Award recognises a group or individual who has achieved outstanding outcomes for Indigenous people. The award focuses on



leadership, active engagement with the Indigenous community, long-term positive impact and measurable results.

Other finalists in the category were: Albany Heritage Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation Inc: City of Greater Geraldton - Reconciliation Committee: Magabala Books, BROOME.

Karalundi congratulates Magabala Books as the 2011 category winner as we are united in improving Indigenous outcomes.

Teacher Housing Project at Wongutha...

Planking...

Harry shows how it is done at Wongutha.

Kids do not try this at home!



Diary Dates for Term 1 2012

January:

- DEEWR GRG (50%)
- DEEWR Recurrent Assistance (50%)
- AICS AL PD—Perth (30-2) - All Seasons Hotel, Northbridge
- AICS AL PD—Fitzroy Crossing (30-2) - Fitzroy River Lodge

February:

- **Term 1 commences (1)**
- ONGE Census —State per Capita Funding
- Update school info on AISWA website
- ATP- LNSLN—Signed agreements to be returned to AISWA (tbc)

March:

- AICS—Due date of return of delegate information & Agenda items for 2012 conference (1)
- DEEWR— GRG—Notify the dept of rise or fall of 15% or more in enrolments at the beginning of the school year
- DEEWR—Recurrent Assistance (Indigenous Funding Guarantee) - 50% based on last year's census
- AISWA—CGA—Closing date for applications Capital Grants (23)
- AISWA—Briefing the Board—Perth College (24)
- AICS Conference—Perth—venue to be confirmed (27-29)

April:

- **Term 1 finishes (5)**
- AISWA / AICS PD in Broome—Cable Beach Resort (23-26)
- AISWA—AGM & CGA AGM
- **Term 2 commences (26)**

May:

- NAPLAN (15,16,17)
- ONGE—State per Capita funding—2nd payment based on February census

June:

- DEEWR—School's Financial Questionnaire
- DEEWR—Financial Acquittal—due date for completion by accountants
- AICS Teacher Housing Project—Conclusion (30)

July:

- DEEWR—Recurrent Grants (Schools Systems, Amalgamations and Separations) (1)
- ATP—IE—Late Supplementary (Round 2) applications (tbc)
- **Term 2 finishes (6)**
- DEEWR—Recurrent Grants: Distance Education and Indigenous Supplementary Assistance—2nd payment (75%)
- **Term 3 commences (24)**
- ATP—Literacy, Numeracy & Languages—2011 applications (18 July—19 Aug)



Best Wishes to all for a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your holiday be enjoyable, safe and relaxing.