

## Building for the future

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College has had a dream for many years to have our own residential training and administration centre (with the help of a generous benefactor) but at the same time we have survived without this and learnt the value of operating in a lower cost way by leasing office space from the Lutheran Church and hiring residential accommodation for student groups at the nearby Tropicana Lodge.

This year we have 20 x 2-week training events with groups averaging 20 students.

*Special needs we still have.* Due to the greatly increased cost of rental accommodation in Cairns, we are commencing a special **Building Fund Appeal** to raise over \$200,000 that we need to add to funds in hand to purchase a house for use by the Principal and family. This family with four children find themselves on a very tight budget. The ability of the College to provide affordable housing in a location close to College facilities will help to ensure the longer term stability of service by the Principal. Donations to the Building Fund are tax deductible.

## Stop Press!

The Management Committee has appointed Mrs Evelyn Parkin as Theology Teacher, initially on a part-time basis with a view to fulltime in 2009.

Evelyn is a graduate of the College and has completed the Master of Theology award from the Australian Catholic University in Brisbane.



## Scholarship Fund

A tax deductible Scholarship Fund was set up last year with the aim of providing financial assistance to Indigenous persons resident in Queensland to undertake tertiary level studies in the fields of theology, business or community development.

The limited funds available are currently assisting two staff members to further develop their management skills.

Further funds are sought from public donations and corporate sponsorship. The Fund rules provide that:

Written applications will be considered by the Management Committee of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College and the Committee may at its discretion award scholarships subject to the availability of funds.

Consideration shall be given to the potential for academic achievement and the personal circumstances of each applicant. Assistance provided may include the cost of fees, travel and incidental expenses.



## Other Donations

We certainly appreciate non-tax deductible donations also to help with the provision of staff and shortfalls in operating costs. These donations go to the Program Development Fund. \$30,000 was drawn from this Fund in 2007 to 'balance the budget'.

Times are tight and we do appreciate both small and large commitments of support by individuals, churches and agencies – in particular we note the support of partner Churches, the Bible Society in NSW, Tear Australia and the Anglican Board of Mission-Australia.

David Thompson  
Assistant to the Principal

## New intake for Community Organising and Development Course



Back row - Robert Gela, Christina Bunting (Literacy Support), Paul Mosby, Maria Gebadi, Charles Loban, Zane Saunders (Trainee Teacher), Colin Costello, Hilton Bulmer, Petrine Saunders, Hullridge Stafford, Donald Mosby, Rev Les Baird (Coordinator). Front row - Ada Clarmont, Eleanor Short, Paul Tom, Bessie Hosbon, Leila Clarmont, Sebastian Alfred.



# Wontulp-Bi-Buya News

Bi-annual News for  
Queensland churches & supporters

Print Post Approved  
PP424022/00956

No. 26

July 2008

## Acting Principal commissioned



A Commissioning Service took place at Trinity Lutheran Church, next to the Colleges office in Cairns, during the fellowship night of the first residential study block of the Diploma of Theology studies.

The commissioning recognised and acknowledged the appointment of The Reverend Victor Joseph to the position of Acting Principal. Family members of Rev Joseph, office staff and colleagues of Wontulp were also acknowledged to support him in his new role.

Rev Joseph relocated his family from Moa Island where he was the CEO of St Pauls Community. We are very fortunate to have someone with such high management skills to join the Wontulp family. Rev Victor is also a student of Wontulp currently undertaking the Diploma of Theology course on a part-time basis.

## Sisters honoured by Bishop of North Queensland diocese

Sisters from Moa Island in the Torres Straits, Tara Joseph (wife of acting Principal Rev Victor Joseph) and Petrine Saunders, were honoured to receive the award of the Certificate III in Theology from the Anglican Bishop of North Queensland, the Right Reverend William (Bill) Ray. Bishop Ray joined our graduation fellowship night after conducting a general meeting with Indigenous clergy from the region.

Tara and Petrine come from a strong Christian upbringing and paid a special tribute to their mother Gertrude Levi who is the inspiration in their lives and their role model. Tara will continue her studies in Diploma of Theology in 2009 whilst Petrine is continuing studies this year in the Certificate III in Community Organising and Development Course.



*Petrine and four Joseph children – (L-R) Elijah, Hannah, Benjamin and Joshua – perform a Torres Strait dance at the Graduation.*



## From the Acting Principal

Good Day to all our readers, family and friends.

I would like to first acknowledge our Almighty God we serve in whatever ministry or gift that we have. Secondly, I acknowledge all traditional owners of this land and to our Elders in our respected towns and communities.

This is my first report as the new Acting Principal of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College and I wish to personally thank Rev Des Rumble and Rev Barry Paterson once again for their contribution to Wontulp-Bi-Buya College. There are other staffs of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College I wish to acknowledge also and they are Miss Daniella Crowe and Mrs Natalie Newie for their insight into the administration life of the College and in particular Rev David Thompson and Rev Michael and Deacon Valma Connolly. They have given a deeper understanding and guidance of the life of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in its current form.

It has been a steep learning curve for me since I started and a lot of my time has been spent reviewing the current administration procedures and policies, attending the AGM at Nungalinya College in Darwin and our AGM with the Management Committee. Also becoming familiar with the training standards of the College is very challenging.

I am pleased to announce that Rev Wayne Connolly Priest in Charge of the Anglican Church of Kowanyama is the new President of the Management Committee.



I look forward to working with Rev Wayne and all the Committee members as we look to the future and meeting the needs of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College.

It has been a pleasure so far to meet the students when they attend their respected courses and I am pleased to advise that we currently have the following enrolled for 2008-

- 30 students for Diploma of Theology
- 44 Students for Certificate III in Theology
- 30 x 1<sup>st</sup> year and 17 x 2<sup>nd</sup> year students for Cert III in Community Organising and Development
- A total of 121 students for 2008.

Since my commencement here, I can see that our College will grow from strength to strength but it is the pain that comes with change that maybe the greatest challenge for us. It is like a mother that is experiencing "growing pains" within her from the growing baby. Business people sometimes call this "organisational pain" or "OP". What is this "pain"? Firstly, readers might say that Wontulp-Bi-Buya College is a Christian organisation and there shouldn't be any "pain".

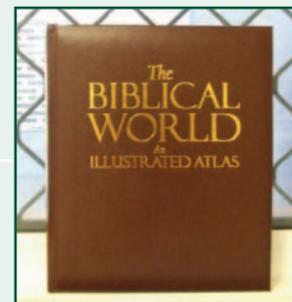
Well, the reality is that whether within this College or even within a Church there will always be "pain". The pain I am talking about here is not physical pain but administration pain such as staff turnover, the growth of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College etc, I have only mentioned two here for now due to limited space. They are similar issues to any other organisation and I would like to share more on this organisational pain later.

There will be greater challenges to come but we are comforted by the fact that our God is greater than these challenges and through his guidance and from others around us our College will be ready to grow from the new ground where our good Lord will replant us.

Finally, on a personal note I wish to thank my wife and my children once again for joining me on this journey in our life here at Wontulp-Bi-Buya College.

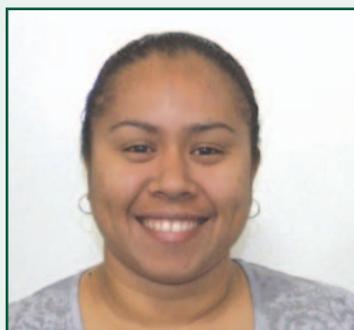
May God bless you and keep you safe until we meet again.

Reverend Victor Joseph



*Gift donated to the College at the AGM 2008 from Mr Victor Blanco - a Committee member from Bamaga, representing the Torres Strait region.*

## New Administrative Assistant



In February, we welcomed Mrs Natalie Newie to the family of Wontulp as the new Administrative Assistant. She brings to the role a wealth of experience in administration and accounts after working for St Pauls Island Council on Moa Island for seven years in various roles from Payroll Officer to Administration Manager.

Natalie is of Torres Strait Islander decent and has lived all her life on Thursday island.

She is currently undertaking Certificate III in Community Organising and Development Course and is expected to graduate in December this year.

We welcome Natalie and hope she finds working for the College a rewarding experience.

## From Kowanyama to New Delhi - India



*Tear Australia provided for two of our students, Eddie Turpin and Constance Saveka to take part in a Third World Experience in India in January.-February.*

I felt very comfortable with the poor and beggars and the slum people. The first week I was joking and laughing with the slum and street people who all can speak English.

The high lights of the trip was visiting Mother Teresa's work in Kalkota, the Mark Buntain's feed the hungry projects. We also visited the slums of Kalkota.

The Taj Mahal also was a sight to see. And other places that's been there 2000 years before Christ!

Another highlight was meeting the Village Malto People who washed & oiled our dusty feet on arrival to their village!!

The colours, the extremes, the diverse people, the happy faces, the history, and the whole culture of India is something that only is believed if you see it for yourself.

Going to India probably would be the biggest highlight and the most life changing adventure in all my life.

With all thanks to Wontulp Bi-Buya College, Tear Australia, Rev Les Baird, Daniella Crowe. Fr Dave and all the staff of Tear Australia and Wontulp.

Eddie Turpin, Kowayama

Wow! Rickshaws and beggars and mates in the slums of New Delhi and Kolkata. Friends in Agra and Bihar. (At the feet of Mt Everest!!)

Meeting the famous *Malto people* of rural India, Witnessed the power of God at *Prem-Jyoti*.

I still can't believe the incredible experience I had in going to India thanks to Wontulp & Tear Australia.

My entrance into India was no less than spectacular from the start! We landed at the Delhi airport which was undergoing renovations. So the plane parked out on the tarmac and a bus came out to pick us up to take us to the airport etc.

We boarded the bus which had no seats, but had straps hanging down from a rail. As the bus took off, the strap I held slipped along the rail and I knocked about six Indians down to the floor! (big shame job)

But what a sight India was! There was colour and beauty everywhere amongst the absolute poverty and shame, travelling down highways on which there are absolutely no road rules. Elephants, rickshaws, camels, the latest cars, horses, donkeys and the sacred cows all sharing the highways. I could not believe my eyes.

It didn't take long for me to fit in.

## Help Wontulp-Bi-Buya College Grow

Please send me  copies of Rainbow Spirit Theology at \$16.95 posted /

Please send me  copies of Milbi Dabaar at \$25.00 posted /  copies of The Beyond is Near at \$5 posted

/  copies of The Peacemaker at \$16.95 posted /  copies: How Kangaroo Found His Tail at \$16.95 posted

/  copies of The Fishtrap Makers - Kos and Abob at \$19.95 posted

/  copies of Trigger Fish and Trevally - Nagag and Geigi at \$19.95 posted

Please accept my gift of:  \$25  \$50  \$100 \$ ..... for:

Staff and programs

Building Fund (tax deductible)

Scholarship Fund (tax deductible)

*The Library Fund is currently well subscribed.*

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Forward gifts to: Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, PO Box 960N, North Cairns Qld 4870

*Please advise change of address. Enclose mailing label if possible.*