

Acting Principal's Report cont.

Staff:

- I have continued to work closely with Rev. David Thompson since March 2008 and I can say that I have acquired a wealth of knowledge from Rev. David as I begin to find my way around the life of the College. There is still a lot to learn and I look forward to continuing my "training" with Rev. David, Rev Michael and the Management Committee in 2009.
- Our Administration staff has had a change with Mrs Natalie Newie leaving to pursue other employment opportunities; however we were fortunate to obtain Ms Nola Graham who has commenced on a casual basis and would now be a permanent staff member. Ms Daniella Crowe continues to oversee the administration and provides support training to Nola at this time.
- Rev'ds Mick and Val Connolly have just finished their field trips for 2008 after spending 3 months in Cape York Peninsula communities for teaching and pastoral support and then 3 weeks at Woorabinda.
- Rev'd Les Baird has had a busy year with his teaching blocks in our Community Organising and Development Course, field trips to some of the communities and assisting with the re-accreditation of a new course. He also managed to squeeze in a overseas trip to Israel too!
- Mrs Evelyn Parkin has commenced as our Theology teacher working part-time and she will commence fulltime in January 09 after her relocation from Stradbroke Island. Pastor Andrew Jaensch continues to provide mentoring support to Evelyn in her new position and we endeavour to hold a commissioning for Evelyn in the first week in April.
- A new Accounts Manager has commenced working with us and his name is Mr Patrick Lopez; he is of ethnic background (South American) and an Australian citizen for 29 years. Rev. David will be working closely with Patrick to assist him in the transition of all finance and accounting responsibilities.

Courses:

- Our Certificate III in Community Organising and Development was re-accredited for another 5 years along with new courses Cert III in Alcohol and Other Addictions and Cert IV in Alcohol and Other Addictions Counselling. We anticipate that the Cert III and IV in AOAC to commence in the first half of 2009 subject to funding. We will be seeking enrolments once everything is finalised.
- Wontulp-Bi-Buya College looks forward to working closely with Nungalingya College in the re-accreditation of the Theology courses.
- One of our former teachers is currently assisting the College in the delivery of the Enterprise Trainer and Assessor Skill set. We have gained registration to deliver these 5 units of the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. This training will qualify some graduates and trainee teachers to assist in casual teaching at Wontulp-Bi-Buya College.

Partnership Agreement:

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College and Nungalingya College have a special agreement under the Commonwealth Indigenous Education Programme (IEP). The Principal of Nungalingya College Dr Lee Levett-Olson and myself are faced with the task of renewing our partnership agreement between our Colleges. There are quite a number of challenges facing us both within our Colleges and externally with the VET sector. However, I have great confidence that we can overcome them and look forward to strengthening our relationships together.

An Interim Memorandum of Understanding agreement between our Colleges is now in place to cover the period from the 1st of January 2009 to 30th of June 2009. This interim agreement will give us the opportunity to work with Nungalingya College and the Commonwealth Government in ratifying a new agreement and address some of the issues in front of us. Please pray for all of us as we begin this process.

Finally, Wontulp-Bi-Buya College is pleased to report that to date we have had a total of 8 Graduates of Cert III Theology students, 1 Diploma of Theology student and 9 Cert III in Community Organising and Development. This is a great achievement for the students of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College for 2008 and we wish the students all the very best as they now commence their qualified practical training in their respected communities or wherever the good Lord sends them.

In conclusion, on behalf of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College staff and our Management Committee we welcome all our students (both current and new) and look forward to the exciting challenges God has planned for us in 2009. To our partner churches, sponsors, donors we welcome you back and look forward to working again with you in this New Year.

With God's Blessing and Peace.

The Rev. Victor Joseph
Acting Principal



2008 Diploma of Theology Students



Wontulp-Bi-Buya News

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New Publication - Dhubbi's Mischievous Adventure

Avid readers will be delighted to learn of a new story-book being released in January by Wontulp-Bi-Buya College. The book is called 'Dhubbi's Mischievous Adventure'. It is set in the community of Hope Vale in the 1950's and is about a small boy, Dhubbi and his two friends who wag school. It gives a glimpse of remote community life in the 50's, an insight into a culture in transition accompanied with Aboriginal humour and fun.

The author is Kathi Gibson-Steffensen a member of the Guugu Yimithirr people from HopeVale. The colourful illustrations for this book are a combination of photographs and sketches. The reader is therefore able to see exactly what HopeVale and its surroundings are like.

As Dhubbi's adventure proceeds, children will have the opportunity to learn some simple Guugu Yimithirr words. (All language spelling is from the Guugu Yimithirr wordlist, which was compiled by John Haviland, Dec 1988.) Not only does this book tie in with Queensland State Minister For Education, Hon Rod Welford's new policy of 'Every Day Counts' (about absenteeism) but it, and the other four books (2 from HopeVale and 2 from the Torres Strait) are an excellent resource for the Queensland SOSE Curriculum's 'Knowledge and Understanding' area of learning's categories 'Time, Community and Change' and 'Culture and Change'.

'Dhubbi's Mischievous Adventure' and all books in this series are stories told by Indigenous Australians. They are written specifically for young children to be read by the teacher especially in remote communities. They all have a moral lesson

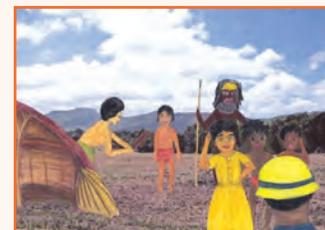
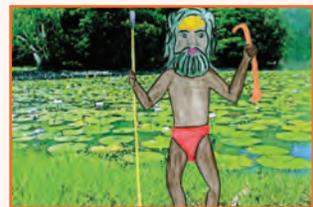
on behaviour that can relate to the every day life of young children in remote communities and are popular with non-indigenous children throughout Australia

Quote from the book text

'Dhubbi was a mischievous little Aboriginal boy who lived in Hope Vale in Far North Queensland. He liked playing with his friends. He liked daydreaming. He didn't like listening to the elders, like Old Man Jimmy, who talked about his great grandfather's ways, and taught the old customs.

He didn't like listening to his schoolteacher, Miss Birri who taught him how to read and write. He didn't like listening to his mother (ngamu) who always told him to get up and go to school.

Dhubbi did not like to listen to his elders or follow their advice. He just liked to daydream. He dreamed about being a strong hunter like his grandfather. He dreamed about hunting kangaroo (gangurru) and emu (burriwi).





Acting Principal's End of Year Report

Staff transition is never easy in any organisation; no matter how much effort is put into making it smooth there will always be bumps along the way. What we must be careful of is to never undo the good that is already in place but continue to improve and be innovative in how the College conducts its core business. That's how we'll move forward in 2009 in such difficult times.

My acknowledgement to our God of heaven and earth that we all serve, to all traditional owners of this land; and to our Elders in our respective towns and communities.

As we have spent time with our families in the true Spirit of Christmas, I realised what a year 2008 has been for our College.

I want to just quickly take this opportunity to reflect on the past 10 months since my commencement and look to the future here at Wontulp-Bi-Buya College.

I want to start by this quote "Success is not measured by the position you have reached in life, rather by the obstacles overcome while trying to succeed" Eleanor Roosevelt.

I came across this quote during one of my preparation for a sermon and it reminded me of the importance of doing the work that is given unto each and everyone of us to do, no matter how great or small it still needs to be accomplished and it takes more than one person but a team effort. I can tell you we have a great team here at Wontulp-Bi-Buya College and it is a pleasure to be working with them.

Well, what a year 2008 has been for Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, it was both challenging and rewarding; so much was done and still more to do in so little time.

The global financial crisis may seem to some people as a concern for our political leaders to solve yet not knowing that this has an impact to the most northern remote community in Queensland, including Wontulp-Bi-Buya College. Why? Because we rely on our donors, partner churches and Govt funding for financial support and we must realise that they too are affected by this global crisis. It was only last month that I received an email about theological education on "shaky grounds". At first I wasn't quite sure how to approach this article, What I mean is this, In the article I read that large theological colleges are facing tens of thousands of dollars for their audit fees and that wouldn't include their costs for the daily processing that needs to be done as well and that's only one scenario, so what does this say about Wontulp-Bi-Buya College? A small college faced with the same problems of high cost, yet just barely getting by each year. I don't have the answer but we're only dealing with the situation at hand but we must have contingency plans in place.

These are challenging times for us, we should all continue to be steadfast in our prayers for all leaders of the world as they address this crisis and pray for our churches and other organisations around the world doing God's work in the harvest field.

I have outlined below matters that have already happened or progressing forward for 2009:

Cont. back page



From top right - 1. Revd John Noah from Mer Island in the Torres Strait graduated from Diploma of Theology November 2008. 2. Zane Saunders and Patricia Murray perform at Diploma graduation. 3. Presentation of books to new students in Cert. III Theology course by Mothers' Union Representative Mrs Lala Leftwich (left) and Acting Principal Revd Victor Joseph (right).

Below & below right: Certificate III in Theology students performing action chorus hymns.



