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Shared Responsibility causes disagreement

There have been a number of Shared Responsibility Agreements put in place between the Federal Government and individual Indigenous communities throughout Australia, a number of them in the Kimberley. The latest to come to light in the Kimberley is one with the Kalumburu community. It appears that this agreement involves the provision of breakfast to children in return for their attendance at school. The most publicised one involved the provision of a petrol bowser in Mulan in return for the children being showered daily and having their faces washed twice a day to reduce the incidence of glaucoma.

In a joint statement last December, Noel Pearson and Pat Dodson expressed their concern in relation to these Agreements and the potential they represented for altering the way that a group operates to fit in with Government policy. They warned:

"Social engineering" is unavoidable when governments attempt to influence social and economic behaviour through their programs and policies. Great caution needs to be exercised when social engineering is proposed.

None of the issues involved in these agreements is simple. Children need to be taken care of; they need to have access to a basic education; parents need to play their part in encouraging their children to go to school – it is after all mandated by law. There is a definite need to address some of the apparent poor parenting practices that exist in some Indigenous communities. However, all care needs to be exercised in order that white middle class values and expectations of what is ‘good parenting’ are not imposed on another cultural group without a reasonable process of dialogue, discussion and an agreed set of basic principles.

Pearson and Dodson go on to make the following point:

It does not make sense to reward parents for doing something for which parents normally need not be rewarded. What message is the government sending: that if you look after your children, you will be rewarded? And when the rewards end or the incentives lose their attraction, can parents then revert to their previous irresponsibility?

It also seems to be critical that there be some logical connection between the obligations expected on both sides of the agreement. Provision of the means to obtain fuel and ensuring family hygiene seem to have little logical connection.

Another group (Kim S Collard, Heather A D’Antoine, Dennis G Eggington, Barbara R Henry, Carol A Martin and Gavin H Mooney – in the Medical Journal of Australia, 12 April 2005) also have reservations about these agreements. Their concern is about confusing the provision of what is a person’s due as a basic human right with discretionary Government generosity.

They say that ‘there are also human rights issues, and the need to avoid solutions that discriminate against Indigenous people. For example, it would be discriminatory if the “rewards” involved in mutual obligation agreements only provide Indigenous people with access to infrastructure that other Australians expect or take for granted (which, incidentally, is the case for petrol bowser).’

With the intention to link these Agreements with changes to the provision of a revamped CDEP, it is high time for some honest brokering between Government and Indigenous communities; a role that the new National Indigenous Council might well be able to fill.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop of Broome.

The Kimberley Community Profile
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The Kimberley Community Profile is a publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Broome, published nine times a year by the Bishop of Broome. Articles to do with the Kimberley are welcome to be submitted for publication.

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop of Broome.
Fr Tony Caruana, MSC (right) is a keen cyclist who spends a significant amount of time racing push bikes around Sydney. He also likes to tour on his bike and has travelled in all parts of Australia. This year in June he tackled Broome to Perth (2400kms) – a feat he achieved in twelve days. His ground crew support was Fr Leo Hill MSC (left) who, like other people, prefers to travel by car.

Bishop Gerard Holohan, Bishop of the Diocese of Bunbury, visited Broome in June and worked with leadership teams from Kimberley Catholic schools and staff of the CEO on the General Directory of Catechesis. Over two days steps for faith education and leadership were presented and current issues relating to Kimberley Catholic schools and parishes were discussed. Participating in both the faith and knowledge components of the two days enabled school leadership teams to address the many facets of their day to day lives with greater wisdom and vigour.

Sr. Sheila Murphy, SJG left the Beagle Bay Community at the end of May to return to her native Ireland. Sister’s relationship with the Aboriginal people of the Kimberley goes back to January 1967 when she arrived in Derby. We particularly note her enormous contribution to the community at Beagle Bay where she became Principal of Sacred Heart School in 1973 and her recent position as tutor to Aboriginal Teaching Assistants studying at the University of Notre Dame Australia. The students required a locally based tutor so that they did not have to leave Beagle Bay to study. Twenty five students have been assisted by Sr Sheila through the Study Centre. Sr Sheila is now planning the next phase of her life after a long period in Education. We pass on our gratitude and look forward to seeing her back in the Kimberley in a new capacity.

Governors of the University of Notre Dame Australia visited Broome at the beginning of July for their annual meeting on the Broome Campus of the University. Coinciding with the meeting was the official opening by the Commonwealth Minister for Education, Dr Brendan Nelson, of the new library on the campus and the annual Graduation ceremony. Justice Neville Owen who will shortly take up the appointment of Chancellor of the University was present for the functions. Bishop Christopher Saunders hosted a dinner for the Governors while they were in Broome.

100 Years Young. The 1st of July was a very special day for Granny May Howard and her family and friends all over the Kimberley. On that day she celebrated her 100th birthday.

Bishop Saunders presented her with some flowers on behalf of Broome parishioners and gave her a blessing. May has many descendants including another great granddaughter born on her birthday.

Sr Frances Wilson rdnm (left) & Sr Veronica Keaveney rdnm, ex teachers at Gibb River spent a couple of weeks in the Kimberley walking down memory lane and visiting old friends in Broome, Derby and Gibb River. Sr Frances now works at Mazenod College in Lesmurdie, WA while Sr Veronica lives in New Zealand.
**Supporting 80,000 seminarians**

The Society of St Peter Apostle – one of three major recipients of funds raised by Catholic Mission – supported more than 80,000 seminarians across the world during 2004. The Society also subsidised 924 seminaries, mainly in Africa where there were nearly 10,000 new admissions and more than 2000 priestly ordinations.

The figures were part of a report made by the Society’s Secretary General, Monsignor Jose Antonio S. Galvez, to the General Assembly of the Pontifical Mission Societies (known in Australia as Catholic Mission) in Lyon, France, in May this year. Catholic Mission National Director Father Terry Bell attended the assembly with 130 other representatives from across the globe.

The 80,297 seminarians were supported with more than $A23 million, raised mainly from donors in developed countries. The Society also provided more than $A600,000 to support 3,379 male novices and $A1.1 million for 6,556 female novices.

Money raised across the world last year increased marginally to $A34.2 million, with most contributions from Europe ($16.8 million). More than $335,000 was raised in Australia. Father Terry said these funds were distributed directly to seminaries in Rwanda, Uganda, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

The Society of St Peter Apostle began in 1889 when mother and daughter Stephanie and Jeanne Bigard answered a French missionary’s plea for help for funds and prayers. The missionary was the Bishop of Nagasaki, Japan, who was unable to provide for local seminarians training for the priesthood. From this initial call the Society developed, dedicated to the work of fostering local Church leadership worldwide. It assists the training of priests, religious, lay leaders and catechists as servants of their people.

In Australia the Society includes the Seminarian Supporters Program in which donors commit $1500 a year during the last three years of a seminarian’s formation, in mission dioceses across the world.

For more information about Catholic Mission please phone the Diocesan Director, Fr Daniel Chama, on 08 9193 5888.
History of past events points the way to the future

*From Patrons To Partners* is a history of the Catholic Church in the Kimberley (1884-1984). Mark Bin Bakar, the Chairman of the Kimberley Stolen Generation Committee, in the presence of the author Margaret Zucker, launched the new edition of the book on National Aboriginal Sunday, in the grounds of Our Lady Queen of Peace Cathedral. A large crowd of local people and visitors gathered in and around the specially erected tent near the Father Nicholas Emo Centre for this significant occasion.

The new edition of the book has a cover photo of the striking hand-carved statue of the Warmun Madonna sometimes referred to as The Pregnant Mary. There is also a new Chapter, an addition to the first imprint, on The Separated Children of the Kimberley. In fact the need for this chapter is the prime reason for the revised edition.

The much lauded history book was first published in 1995 a year before the issue of the Stolen Generation came into public prominence in 1996 and subsequently the first publication makes little mention of the Separated Children. This omission was nobody’s fault – matters of the Separated Children simply weren’t spoken about until the Human Rights Commission Hearings that year. However, the absence of this topic from the First Edition rendered it incomplete and to that degree, inadequate. After 1996, the year of the Commission, it was not right to promote a history of the Catholic Church in WA’s far north. Further, the new additional chapter contains a specific reference to my 1996 submission to the Human Rights Commission on the Separated Children. With the advantage of hindsight, there I outlined an apology for any hurt suffered by those sent to Catholic institutions by Government Authorities.

Having read again this wonderful treatise, *From Patrons to Partners*, it is confirmed in my mind once more just how important it is to know your history, the building blocks of the future. Every milestone gained in the past was the result of unshakable faith and constant hard work. The gallant efforts of past missionaries were driven by a divine hope, as were the struggles of Aboriginal people to survive in the face of an oppressive colonial regime. The Church of tomorrow must learn to borrow heavily from the enthusiasm, the imagination and the courage of the past. That we recognize there have been mistakes along the way of our history is a reassuring discovery that will enable us not to repeat them. That we can acknowledge great achievements in past endeavours is a cause to give thanks to almighty God. I hope you too find the new book inspirational.

Viewpoint
By Bishop Christopher Saunders
Catholic Education Leadership and Initiative

By Gerard Tonti-Filippini

Catholic Education in the Kimberley continues to break new ground in reaching out to all. This has been demonstrated recently by the ongoing faith development of staff and through the launching of an exciting new resource called *The Kimberley Companion*. In addition, the gathering of leadership teams at the Catholic Education Office in Broome for several significant meetings in term two highlighted the commitment to ongoing professional development and faith formation for staff and students of Kimberley Catholic schools.

On May 30 the School Leadership teams participated in a professional development program facilitated by Father Richard Leonard SJ, the Director of the Australian Catholic Film Office, on the impact of media in relation to societal expectations, norms and perception. Father Richard emphasized the cultural and moral authenticity of the Catholic faith through its reaching out to all people as the positive way forward, inclusive of the need to be with people in identifying their life struggles and growth capacities. Father Richard’s presentation was passionate and provided engaging examples of life circumstances and choices that leaders face in their ministry. Leaders in Catholic Education are called to provide direction and witness and a vision based on Gospel values. They are also called to be proactive in their articulation, development and sharing of this vision.

Another initiative organized by the Broome CEO was an in-service on the General Directory of Catechesis on May 31 and June 1 at which Bishop Gerard Holohan, Bishop of Bunbury, worked with local leadership teams.

As Catholic Educators we are called to share with our students the person of Jesus, his values and his teachings while maintaining a respectful attitude to the religious and cultural heritage of local families. It was with this in mind that *The Kimberley Companion* was written to meet the needs of children in Kimberley communities whose lifestyle and culture differ significantly from those in the rest of Western Australia. Students, staff and community people have played a vital role in the production of this resource, from providing the beautiful artwork used in the books to working with Sister Veronica Ryan, the author, on the content of *The Kimberley Companion*. (See article page 9)

Sr Veronica with copies of *The Kimberley Companion*. Photo: Courtesy Catholic Education Office.
Argyle agreement wins the day

By Bill Worth

The Governor General, Maj-Gen. Michael Jeffery, joined with local Indigenous people of the East Kimberley in June at a party to celebrate a new agreement between the traditional owners and the world’s largest diamond supplier, Argyle. The party started at midday and went until 8pm with feasting, music and dancing high on the list of activities for the locals and visitors.

Under the terms of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) the plans for the new underground mine can go ahead, thus lengthening the life of the mine by a decade. There will be a substantial investment by the Company providing training, employment and financial benefits for the local people.

Almost twenty-six percent of the 800 current Argyle employees are Aboriginal. Mr Fred Chaney, the Deputy President of the National Native Title Tribunal said “The Tribunal agrees with the parties that there is a cause for celebration…. We are very pleased to have helped reach this positive outcome.”

These leading singers and elders of Warmun added their voices to the historical moment.  Photo: CAS

Here’s looking at Halls Creek

The CEO of Halls Creek Shire, Mr Peter McConnell overlooks the construction of the new swimming pool complex at Halls Creek, a major project that will add vastly to services in the East Kimberley town.

Photo: CAS

Jamie Savage is a seriously good butcher at the Halls Creek Butcher Shop but that doesn’t interfere with his sense of humour as demonstrated by the wording on this polo shirt.

Photo: CAS
Kimberley Kitchen

Lynette Geaney moved to Beagle Bay on the Dampier Peninsula in January this year with her husband Damian when he was appointed Principal of Sacred Heart School. They have three children aged four, six and eight. Lynette also works at the school as the Bursar/Admin Officer. She loves the outdoors and playing sport so is enjoying the relaxed lifestyle at Beagle Bay. She says the following recipe is easy to make and great hot or cold and even better when served with some chilli sauce.

**Zucchini Slice**

**Ingredients**

- 375gm zucchini – grated
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 bacon rashes, finely chopped
- 1 cup cheese, grated
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- 1/4 cup oil
- 5 eggs, lightly beaten
- Salt, pepper to taste

**Method**

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix well. Season with salt and pepper. Pour into a well-greased lamington tray and bake in a moderate oven for 30 – 40 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve warm or cold with a green salad.

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Changes to CDEP

In recent months, the Government, through the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Kevin Andrews, has indicated that there will be significant changes to the management and delivery of the CDEP (Community Development Employment Projects) program. The subtitle to the Future Directions paper was ‘Building on Success’. There might be those who would want to question how successful previous programs have been, but we will leave that aside for the moment and concentrate on the proposals.

One of the basic building blocks for the new approach is a commitment to match programs with local community needs. This is an admirable aim and most people would applaud such a goal. Another is the desire to have a ‘whole of government approach’ as has been experimented with COAG arrangements in places like Balgo. Despite this likewise admirable goal, many people on the ground in these places would say that nothing much has changed and that COAG has not brought the benefits that were promised.

More worrying however, is the desire of the Minister to link CDEP programs more closely with SRA’s (Shared Responsibility Agreements). [Ed. See this month’s Editorial] While there are serious questions about the SRA’s there must surely be doubt about the effectiveness of this linkage.

There is more to come! The further hopes of the Minister are that those on CDEP will not stay there for very long and that they will move to non-CDEP employment in time and that the current exemptions from this expectation for those living in remote areas will eventually be removed. Why the concern? Well, what has been put in place to provide training and education in workplace practices for those who are expected to move to non-CDEP employment? How many non-CDEP jobs are there going to be for those in the very remote areas of the Kimberley? Cultural attachment to country and close links to family preclude the obvious solution – move to where the jobs are.

In many places and for a variety of reasons, the current CDEP programs are not a success if they are to be measured by Government expected outcomes. So why would anyone expect this new approach to be any better? There are too many other social factors working against the success of such programs, and these factors are well upstream of getting on a CDEP program. While communities are unable to have guaranteed supplies of water and power, while health and nutrition remain significant issues, while the achievement of basic literacy and numeracy remains a huge challenge, while overcrowding and sub-standard housing remain the norm, whilst family violence linked to substance abuse continues to traumatising many young people, ‘the one size should fit all’ proposals of Kevin Andrews seem to be destined to become another failed Government program thrown at remote Aboriginal communities.

Some of our Federal Ministers would do well to spend more of their parliamentary recesses living for a few weeks in some of our Kimberley remote communities. Maybe then they would come closer to understanding why their programs and plans are beyond the capacities and readiness of our most disadvantaged people, and therefore likely to set them up for failure (and no doubt blame) once again. At this time, it seems to me that capacity building at the front end is a more urgent need than tinkering with CDEP.
The Kimberley Companion, a Religious Education Resource for use in Catholic Schools in the Kimberley, was launched recently in Broome and again in Warmun. Bishop Saunders thanked the author, Sr Veronica Ryan RSJ, for her hard and persistent work. He described The Kimberley Companion as “probably the most significant Religious Education Resource ever developed for the Kimberley. It is innovative, imaginative, relevant and substantial” he said. “It has the potential to connect the school, the parish and the family in the area of faith education. It was designed for school teachers, but it could be equally useful to parents and parish priests. The Kimberley Companion is complementary to the RE Guidelines and localizes the guidelines for Kimberley people.”

Sr. Veronica said how grateful she was for the support her project had received. It would not have been possible, she remarked, without the backing of local teachers and parents and Aboriginal Teaching Assistants. She thanked Mr. Damien Doyle of the Perth Catholic Education Office who represented Mr. Ron Dullard at the launches, and commented how thankful she was to the CEO for their encouragement and professional assistance.

Sr. Veronica went on to say that the Religious Education Coordinators in each school monitored the progress on the material over the time of the project and made valuable contributions for which she is ever grateful.

A second launch in Warmun included students from St Joseph’s Kununurra, while local students contributed magnificently to the morning’s celebrations through song and drama. Community members escorted Sr. Veronica and the new publication to the place of celebration where the book was duly presented and launched.
Forty Stolen Generation people of the Kimberley and their families took part in the Kimberley Journey of Healing from 22 – 28 May. Sorry Week events were held across the Kimberley, from Wyndham to Beagle Bay, and those on the Journey travelled by coach to each of the events. The coach left Broome on the 22 May to take people up to Wyndham.

Wyndham Sorry Day was held under the Harmony Tree on 23 May. A big crowd of locals and the Journey people gathered for speeches, lunch and music, and a chance for all to catch up. Further Sorry Day activities were held at Wuggubun Community, Warmun and Halls Creek.

The last event was at Beagle Bay on 27 May and was a relaxing close to the Journey, with Mass and morning tea at the beautiful church and a delicious lunch of crabs and local fish under the bough sheds. Families and friends were reunited, many of whom grew up at Beagle Bay Mission. After a last night in Broome, the coach took all the East Kimberley people back home on 28 May.

Jack Trust, a committee member of the Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation, was on the Journey of Healing and visited a gorge near the Wuggubun Community. He is seen here telling a group of young people about the gorge and the plants that grow in the area. Photo: R Strain.

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Cologne World Youth Day – It’s time for Pilgrims to Pack their Bags

By: Bishop Christopher Saunders

In August a total of twenty three pilgrims will depart the Broome Diocese for Darwin soon enroute to Europe. They will visit significant historical and holy places throughout France, Luxembourg and Germany before joining a million other youth from around the world in one of Germany’s most beautiful cities, Cologne.

The message that has been sent out to Pilgrims is to prepare themselves as much as possible – physically and spiritually.

Although it will be summer in Europe, daily temperatures are often way below Kimberley summer temperatures. A hot day in Europe is often more like a mild spring moment in Perth. Some warm clothing is essential – and pilgrims must be prepared for the possibility of summer rain which can send temperatures plummeting.

Spiritual preparation for the journey by the pilgrims means developing their commitment to prayer and worship. This is not a holiday..... this is a pilgrimage.

The main thing that distinguishes a pilgrim from a tourist is the sense of journeying in faith – going somewhere towards becoming closer to the Lord. It means becoming more fully human in Christ, growing stronger in faith as we travel more closely to our place of pilgrimage.

I ask that each pilgrim be aware of their calling to journey in faith. Each pilgrim is to represent their faith community in the Kimberley. They will represent the other Christian faithful who cannot travel, and in a very real way they are ambassadors for the Kimberley region. How they travel enroute to Cologne, through France and Germany, is extremely important. These young travellers are pilgrims of peace and prayer. I ask also that the faith community of the Church in the Kimberley pray for all those who travel to Cologne. Pray that their mission will be fulfilling, joyous and peace giving. Through this pilgrimage may we all come closer to Christ.

Harry Higgins, Agnes Pilgram, Troy Karadada and Ulanda White are pilgrims on the move. Photo: A Hayden

PILGRIMS PLEASE NOTE:
You must travel light “You take it – you carry it”. You have a list of things to bring – these are sensible suggestions. Please take care to consider the suggestions offered.
A significant anniversary was celebrated at Bidyadanga when La Grange Mission had its 50th birthday on 26th June. Parish Priest, Fr Emil said, “It was a good day for everyone. We talked about the celebration for quite some time in preparation for the day. People were anxious to celebrate what the Mission has done for them since its foundation”.

Bishop Saunders, in his homily at Mass, recalled the early days in 1955 when La Grange was a Government Feeding Station. “When the first Missionaries arrived here there was much sickness and disease. A sense of hopelessness and a lack of self-esteem had arisen from the poor health conditions. The Missionaries set about to heal the bodies of the local people and then heal the spirit too. The Mission became a protectorate for local Aboriginal people, shielding them from the exploitation of the local pearlers who lived in camps along the coast. Misery and oppression were the enemies of the Aboriginal people along with Government apathy and neglect. The Missionaries were sensible practitioners of the Gospel who not only preached but they rolled their sleeves up and their work made a positive difference to people’s lives”.

Later while reflecting on the day and contemplating the historical records of the Mission, the Bishop added, “Fr Kevin McKelson’s work was legendary, in the field of language and culture. Brother Richard Besenfelder battled the bush to establish a cattle station to feed the people. Sr Margot Toohey worked the long hours to set up a health regime that healed common illnesses. Colin Arburthnott, a Lay Missionary, worked constantly to establish a liveable village while training local men as welders and builders. There were many others who also added to the story including the generations of locals who worked so hard. This was a labour of love which today is the foundation of what is a viable community. This is what we celebrate today and for which we give thanks to almighty God.”
Dancers gave the celebration a special feel. Photo: B Kane

Old hands at La Grange, Market Gardener Danny Fyffe (l), and ex-parish priests, Kevin McKelson and Matthew Digges, remember old times. Photo: B Kane

Bishop Christopher Saunders and State Member for the Kimberley, Carol Martin MLA at the BBQ afterwards. Photo: J Lynch.
Opening of Kimberley Education and Resource Centre

A very moving ceremony to bless and open the Kimberley Education and Resource Centre which houses the Library at the University of Notre Dame Australia was held on Friday 1st July and witnessed by many staff, students and friends of the University.

Cissy Djagween, a local Yawuru elder gave the traditional welcome to country, Bishop Christopher Saunders blessed the facility and Dr Brendan Nelson MHR, Federal Minister for Education, Science & Training officially opened the new Library.

The new facility has been in planning since 1998, when it was determined that the then current library needed to be upgraded to better serve the needs of the students, staff and community.

Notre Dame’s Broome Campus Board of Management member Esther Bevan together with the Foundation Dean of the Campus, Sister Pat Rhatigan, conceived and coordinated the plan for local Aboriginal artists to contribute to the construction of the library by producing artworks and donating the proceeds of the art sale toward the construction cost of the Library.

Twenty-seven artists participated in the project, as for many it was a way of contributing to something they believed would benefit their children and grandchildren. Sadly a number of the artists have since passed away.

Dr Patricia Kailis, a Governor of the University, and her late husband philanthropic entrepreneur, Michael Kailis had originally planned to auction the art work in New York. However, fearing that the works would be sold individually and the collection lost to the Kimberley, Dr Kailis purchased the collection herself and donated it back to the Broome Campus, where it is now exhibited in the new library.

The Federal Government contributed around $2 million toward the Library and the development of the communication and information technology infrastructure.

Vice Chancellor, Dr Peter Tannock, in his address said, “The University is extremely grateful to all those who have contributed to such a worthy cause. The library is a wonderful facility that will benefit our students, staff and the community immensely”.

Artists and dancers from Warumun ceremoniously escorted Dr Patricia Kailis (centre) to unveil a framed collage of the paintings in the collection now on display in the University Library in Broome. Photo: Red Dirt Photography.
2005 GRADUATION

The University of Notre Dame Australia’s Broome Campus held its mid-year Graduation Ceremony on 1st July with twenty-eight Higher Education students graduating with degrees in Arts, Business, Counselling, Education, Nursing and Indigenous Australian Studies. Of these graduates five are Indigenous and three completed a VET Pathways course at the Broome Campus prior to starting their degrees.

With twenty-one Indigenous students graduating from the VET Pathways course this year, the program is set to continue providing access for all Indigenous people to Higher Education degrees.

The prestigious Patricia and Michael Kailis Prize was awarded to nursing graduate Andrea Jane Rieusset.

The staff at Notre Dame are extremely proud of all their graduates and commend them on their determination and willingness to succeed.

A view of the outside of the new Library at the University of Notre Dame Australia, Broome Campus. Photo: L.Quince.
A vintage trek north
— R.F.D.S. Fundraiser to Kununurra

By Bill Worth

Sixteen classic cars left Broome for Kununurra in the Matso’s Broome Brewery’s Classic Car Run in aid of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Many of the enthusiasts had come from Perth while local entrants included Martin Pierson-Jones and Kim Hart of Broome in a Mercedes 450 Sports, along with Craig and Gail Muir of Kununurra in their 1955 MG TF. Bob Baker of Broome had a great run with his 1974 Triumph Spartan Roadster while gently cruising in a 1955 Mercedes 180D was Pat Walton of Melbourne with friend and co-driver Bishop Christopher Saunders of the Kimberley. "It was a great experience" said Bishop Saunders. "Our vehicle was definitely the slowest in the pack, way behind Peter and Robin Briggs’ 1936 Bentley Franay, and every other vehicle for that matter! However, we won in the economy stakes at twelve kilometers a litre and we never had to use the tow rope!! But this trek was not about winning or competing – it was about participation and friendship. It was a great group of people to travel with – some real characters, a lot of humour and with a hefty donation made available to the RFDS it was a vintage trek well worth doing”.

The event, generously sponsored by Martin Pierson-Jones and ably organized by Greg Ross of Perth, promises to be an annual celebration. With back up from Peter Briggs’ Fremantle Motor Museum and the Janet Holmes à Court Car Collection together with transport assistance from NEXUS (courtesy of Managing Director Peter Howell), it will no doubt be another magnificent moment on the Kimberley Calendar for next year and beyond.
Caritas rebuilds countries hit by tsunami

Within days of the tsunami which struck on Boxing Day 2004, causing so much devastation people started giving money to the ‘Caritas Tsunami Appeal’. Residents of the Kimberley responded by giving $62,000 while Australians as a whole gave a total of $20 million to the Appeal. This money is being used to help people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

Caritas was immediately able to start distributing money through its partner organizations already working in the region. In all the countries hit by the tsunami the most pressing requirement was to provide food, basic shelter, medical care and items like tents, tarpaulins and cooking pots as well as providing money to clean up the devastated surroundings.

An important part of the next stage in the rebuilding is to provide fishing nets and boats to enable the people to feed themselves. Once people are able to support themselves they can then move from living in tents to more permanent housing.

In Paiyagala, an area that lies on the south-west coast of Sri Lanka, 12,000 homes were completely or partially damaged as a result of the tsunami. This whole area is slowly being transformed as new houses are starting to appear on the foundations of ones that were destroyed. Caritas has provided money to its partner organization in Sri Lanka, Caritas Colombo-Sethsarana, to construct housing for those considered in immediate need.

Shelton and his family were among the first to benefit from the reconstruction stage of the Caritas relief program. Shelton considers himself to be one of the lucky ones. He says, “Caritas builders did such a good job. I do not know how to thank them. After hard work for more than two months, the day I dreamt about eventually became reality”. One of the greatest thrills he has received for a long time was to see his son holding the key to their new home.

When we hear about how our generosity has brought happiness to the life of Shelton and his family at a time of great sadness, his enormous gratitude makes our giving worthwhile.

This will be the last Caritas article I will be writing for the Kimberley Community Profile. I have stepped down as the Diocesan Director after thirteen years.

Over the years I have enjoyed publicising the work of Caritas Australia through these articles and, more importantly, informing you of how the money raised is being put to good use in helping to improve the standard of living of those most in need of our charity.

I would like to thank everyone for their generosity to Project Compassion Appeals over the years as well as your support of the different appeals that have been held from time to time. I was very touched by people’s generosity in giving to the East Timor Appeal in 1999 which raised $37,700 and the Tsunami Appeal in January this year which raised in excess $68,000.

When I was in East Timor in 2001, I visited a number of villages that were supported by Caritas Australia. People in these communities told me to thank the people of Australia for helping them. On behalf of these people and the many more thousands of people that Caritas Australia reaches out to, thank-you.

Excellent effort for Caritas

Students of Casimir Catholic College, Marrickville NSW, presented a $13,000 cheque to Bishop Christopher Saunders acting on behalf of Caritas Australia. In the past nine years, the College has donated a total of $74,223 to Project Compassion.

Cultural exchange

Four students from Xavier College in Melbourne, Matt Pucius, Sam Morrissy, Damien McKinley and Peter Willis along with teacher, Br Geoff Pearson (left) visited the Broome Diocese recently as part of a cultural exchange program that has existed for seventeen years between St Mary’s College, Broome and Xavier College & Genazzano FCJ College in Melbourne. Since its inception two hundred & seventy two students have participated in the program which provides an opportunity for students from both Broome and Melbourne to learn about and have a greater understanding of each others cultures. Whilst in Broome the students met up with Bishop Christopher Saunders.

Photo: Courtesy Casimir College.
Crafty ways at Kururrungku

By Pat Holden

A new ‘Adult Education/TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)’ Support Teacher, Mary Burns, arrived in Billiluna in week three last term.

When Mary’s dyes and art materials arrived every one was in for a great time dyeing and painting T-shirts and silk scarves, making lino prints, learning fancy embroidery stitches and silk screening designs on the dyed t-shirts.

Some of the work will be on sale at the CEO in Broome and the money raised will be used for the school camp trips to Canberra and Broome.

The adults also have had several workshops on “toothbrush” rugs and dyeing t-shirts. Mary will be offering a workshop on glass bead making next term.

Both students and parents have been engrossed in these creative activities.

Happy Birthday!

By Sr Maura O’Connell

Three staff from Warlawurru celebrated their 60th birthday together in Broome during the Numeracy Professional Development Days. Leonie Robinson, Dawn Corbett and Sr. Maura O’Connell are making 2005 a year of celebration. They were joined by other Kimberley friends at the Mangrove Hotel.

Visit by Minister

By Sr Maura O’Connell

The Federal Minister for Education, Science & Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, visited Warlawurru Catholic School at Red Hill near Halls Creek while he was in the Kimberley in June. He took great interest in what was happening at the school.
Broome

1st Communion Day

By Brian Kane

On June 19th, twenty-nine candidates from St. Mary’s College in Broome received their First Holy Communion. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Joseph Pelle, Father Daniel Chama and a visiting priest from America, Father Tom Hosinski. Everybody shared a meal afterwards in the Nicholas Emo Centre for this special occasion.

Photo: Brian Kane

Happy Anniversary

By Aidan Mitchell

Trish and Andy Bremner, both teachers at St Mary’s College in Broome, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary recently by renewing their vows at Nulungu Chapel. After both bride and groom were traditionally late, Fr Daniel Chama celebrated Mass, which was followed by afternoon tea in the College’s Hospitality Centre. Originally from Melbourne, the Bremners came to Broome in January this year. Congratulations Trish and Andy.

Photo: Aidan Mitchell

Warmun

Cross Cultural Experience

By Sr Alma Cabassi, rsj

Year 11 students from St Norbert College, Queens Park, WA visited Ngalangangpum School, Warmun for their annual cross cultural and service learning experience. It so happened that they were able to join in some great activities beginning with helping in the classroom and with sport. They also took part in a Vocation, Education and Training visit to Argyle with the High School students and a bush trip to Winiper Springs hosted by the Year Six/Seven Class and organised by class teacher John Rocca.

Photo: Liz Koziol rsj

During the bush trip, Polly Widaldjil welcomed the St Norbert students to a refreshing waterhole and is shown here telling the teachers and students some of the stories of this place. Photo: Liz Koziol rsj.

Wyndham

Anyone for Cricket?

By N. Arathoon

On 1st and 2nd of June, St Joseph’s School in Wyndham joined other schools from the Kimberley in the West Australian Cricket Association (WACA) carnival in Kununurra. The students had a fantastic time consolidating the skills they had learned in their sport lessons and cricket clinic. Each team played eight games over the two days with two overs for each batting pair. The WACA had organised prizes for each team at the end of the day which made the carnival an even better experience. A big thankyou to the WACA for all their efforts to provide the students with such a worthwhile and fun opportunity.

Photo: N Arathoon
School News

Balgo

Travelling in Style

By Sr Nola Goodwin

Karen Prevett, Br Bernie Cooper and Sr Nola Goodwin from Luurnpa Catholic School at Balgo recently visited Geraldton and caught up with past staff members, Sue and Pat Erceg. Whilst in Geraldton they invited Bishop Justin Bianchini to join them for a meal. The group travelled to the restaurant in Pat Erceg’s new limousine, which he has for hire.

Excellence Award

By Kim Bristow

Brother Bernie returned to Luurnpa Catholic School with an especially wide grin on his face after being in Perth. Not only were staff and students happy to see him, but they were excited to hear that the school was the winner of the Catholic Education Office of WA - Award of Excellence in Catholic Aboriginal Education for ‘Outstanding School’. The school was nominated by the Aboriginal Teaching Assistants, two of whom were in Perth to receive the award with Brother Bernie.

Eagle Cup Football Competition

Luurnpa Catholic School students were excited to be involved in the Eagle Cup Football competition recently. The teamwork and skills demonstrated by the whole team contributed to the excellent match results. It was fantastic to have a team with so many girls who were eager to be involved in the action.

Thank you to Billiluna for hosting the day, Garnduwa Sport for organising the competition and Mulan for their strong competitive spirit.

Luurnpa Catholic School Football Squad.
Photo: K Bristow
**Hand Painted Vestments**

By Sr. Cheryl Camp RSM

Women from Balgo painted church garments as part of the Year of the Eucharist celebrations at Corpus Christi. Miriam Baadjo designed a Eucharistic painting for a chasuble. Eva Nagomara and Nancy Gill painted a special cloth for Church Leaders called “Kiliki Kutjarra”. Their designs using Aboriginal symbols expressed their enculturated theology of the Eucharist.

Nancy Gill at work with her paint brush.

Photo: C Camp.

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**Bookfair**

By Emma Morrison

Children from all classes at St Joseph’s School, Kununurra were given the opportunity to view books that were available for purchase through a Book Fair held at the school in June. The Book Fair was organized by Mrs Tracey Tolan, the School Librarian, and children and parents were able to visit the Library to view books on display and to purchase books that appealed to them.

Teaching Assistant, Danielle Reimer and Year 1 Students Rohan Smith, Tom Ellet, Jessica Recklies view some of the many books on sale. Photo: T. Tolan.

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**Wirrumu Adult Education & Training Centre**

**School News**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE KIMBERLEY IN YOUR WILL**

A bequest to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Broome for the religious, educational and charitable works of the Church allows funds to be applied where the need is greatest.

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**The Sacred Heart Church Beagle Bay Conservation & Restoration Appeal**

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My/Our cheque/money order/cash is enclosed.

OR ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Bankcard

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Donations of $2 and over are tax deductable.
Receipts will be issued.

Photo: CAS.
This month’s activities are based on the Gospel Reading of Matthew [14:13-21], feeding the 5000+ people with 5 loaves and 2 fish. One idea to be taken from this story is that the apostles wanted to send the hungry people away. They wanted nothing to do with these problem people, but Jesus challenged them. He told them that they themselves had the food to feed his people.

Do you know that you too have ‘food’ to share with those in need. The ‘food’ you are

If we look around us, there are many ways in which others need our God-given gifts, the food that we have to share with them. Take some time to think about who or what within your district is in need of your shared love, be it either a loving word or a kind deed. What about throughout Australia?

List some in the frame below.

Are you or your family able to share one of your God-given gifts to
There are many people throughout the country and the world who get

List some names in the frame on the left.

Take some special quiet time to think about those living in your own area. Who is making a difference in your town or environment?

Someone who shows how to share God’s gifts?

Someone you might use as a role model? Write
that person’s name in the oval.

In the boxes below, print each letter as you find your way to your great, loving God in heaven. It might not be as easy as it seems!!

- How do you feel about what the message says?
- What do you find most difficult to do to follow it?
Godparents

By Fr M Connolly

Choosing the best people possible to be Godparents was so important for Joanie Evans, a pupil at St Joseph’s School, Wyndham and her mother Jackie Gallagher, that they asked Father Mark Connolly, the priest at Wyndham to allow them to have a special time for Joanie’s baptism.

Lindsey Everett and Ann O’Reeri were unable to travel from Derby for the occasion when others in Joanie’s class were being baptised on Trinity Sunday. Fortunately, they were able to come a few days later and promised to support Joanie as she tries to grow stronger in her Catholic faith and her commitment to follow Christ.

Bush Pentecost at Violet Downs

By Fr Mark Connolly

Church members gathered on Violet Downs Station to celebrate Pentecost. After cooking and eating tucker a vigil of prayer and story telling began. In a word of welcome from Sandy Thomas, one of the traditional landowners of the camp site, the group were reminded that they would be discovering the Spirit of God in the land that they were resting on and in the lives of those ancestors who had travelled that land and were buried there. Some of the artists of the community told their Pentecost stories, illustrating them with paintings. While the community sang traditional songs and hymns many of the community received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Because it was a very cold night proceedings finished early with a blessing from Father Mark.

Next morning more people came to the camp site where the community celebrated the Feast of the Holy Spirit with traditional ceremonies, hymns, prayers and the offering of Holy Mass.

The celebration concluded with another feast of good food generously provided by the Station Manager, Bruce Thomas.

Faith Journey

By Sr Jeanette Foxe, rsj

Leah Plunkett, a Year 12 student from Kununurra District High School, received her 1st Reconciliation on Tuesday 7 June (along with 10 other young recipients) and her 1st Communion on Sunday 12 June 2005. It was a great witness to our community to see the dedication and sincerity of one of our people choosing to deepen her faith journey in this way.
Above: There were a lot of things said at St John the Baptist Feastday celebrations this year, the 50th Anniversary of La Grange Mission, and Kleon Mandijalu joins Bishop Saunders at the Mass celebrated for the occasion. Photo: B Kane.

Below: The 1936 Bentley Franay was one vehicle in the Matso’s Classic Car Run from Broome to Kununurra. Here Pat Walton takes the wheel while Kim Hart gets ready to hang on to her hat, at Warmun. Photo: CAS.

Above: Sacred Heart Church at Beagle Bay was packed with family, friends and well wishers when Kazue Akune married Jason Bin Jalil at the historic Dampier Peninsula Church. Kazue and Jason both work at Sacred Heart School in Beagle Bay. Invited guests attended a reception at the community hall where they enjoyed wonderful food and were entertained with music and dancing until the early hours of the morning. We wish the young couple every blessing for their marriage. Photo: L Geaney