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Editorial

A New Year… A New Start?

The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council reminded us recently that ‘In January of last year, the United Nations proclaimed a Second International Decade of the World’s Indigenous People, aiming to further strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development.’

When it comes down to the practicalities of implementing programs to overcome these symptoms of disadvantage, many governments seem to be at a loss to know what to do. There is almost always an ideological battle going on within any government department as to how things ought to be handled. The resultant strategies are often a compromise outcome at best or at worst the result of economic analysis throwing up the most cost-effective option. The Australian Federal Government is no exception.

An article in the Weekend Australian (Feb 4-5) highlighted some of the ideological tensions that have tended to plague the area of Indigenous Affairs for many years, no matter which Minister happened to be responsible at any particular time. It seems that in the midst of the political tug of war amongst departmental advisors and between the department and Ministers, the reasons for returning people to their homelands seems to have been lost.

Even the Australian article acknowledged that many of the desert people had been removed when the ‘deserts were cleared in the ‘60s for rocket testing’. Others were thrown off their traditional lands by pastoral and agricultural ‘advancement’. The ‘return to country’ has been a debt that the nation has been slow to repay. These were not, as the article suggests, ‘little symbols of self-determination, precisely to be “cultural museums”’. These were acts of justice and recompense not charity. The fight for the ‘stolen wages’ of the Aboriginal people who were recruited to work in the agricultural and pastoral industries that took over their land is still going on.

The struggle for Government is a practical one: how can the smaller remote communities that have been settled back on their own land be made self-sustaining? How can the next generation be equipped to take their place in the ever more complex world that is modern Australia while at the same time being assisted to maintain the cultural values that are seen by their elders to be important? The option suggested in the Australian of gathering remote Australian Aboriginal people into settlements more equivalent in size to white town sites in areas with easier access to essential services seems fraught with difficulty and ignores significant cultural issues.

It may be that the move of the Indigenous Affairs portfolio into the care of Mal Brough, who is also the Minister for Family and Children’s Services, signals the desire for a change of approach on the part of the Government. At the very least it offers the opportunity for a fresh start in an area that requires delicate and culturally sensitive handling to achieve realistic and practical outcomes for Indigenous people.

Bishop Christopher Saunders – 10th Anniversary

On the 8th February this year Bishop Saunders celebrated ten years as Bishop of Broome. The Bishop was ordained at the Civic Centre in Broome by Bishops Jobst, Collins (Darwin) and Blanchini (Geraldton). The celebration in 1996 was attended by 1500 people together with twelve Bishops and fifty priests.

Bishop Saunders was ordained priest for the Diocese of Broome at Corpus Christi, St Ives, NSW on 28th August 1976. This year will be his 30th Anniversary as a priest.

Cover Image

The Bridge at Fitzroy Crossing with the river in full flood. January 2006.

He turned a desert into sheets of water and an arid country into flowing springs. — Ps. 107:35

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THE KIMBERLEY COMMUNITY PROFILE

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KIMBERLEY COMMUNITY PROFILE

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SISTER DENISE CASEY (former Principal at Wyndham and Warmun), Sister Edith Prince (former nursing support at Ringer Soak) and Sister Margaret Keane (former principal at Kununurra and Warmun) together with four other West Australian Josephites recently celebrated the Golden Jubilee of their religious profession.

The venue of the celebration was the Holy Family Church in Como where the sisters were joined by many relatives and friends. Bishop Justin Bianchini was the main celebrant at the Mass while Sr Denise’s nephew, Fr Stephen Casey, assisted. Festivities followed in the grounds of St Joseph’s Provincial House in South Perth.

JANINE HART has been appointed as the Principal of John Pujajangka-Piyirn School, Mulan, a position she commenced at the start of 2006. Janine is well known in the Kimberley, having worked at Ngalangangpum School, Warmun, Sacred Heart School, Beagle Bay and the Catholic Education Office in Broome.

ASSISTING WITH SUPPLY to the Kimberley are two veteran priests of the mission territory, Fr Joe Kearney, SAC and Fr Pat McAtamney.

Fr Kearney has worked in a number of areas in the Kimberley, including Beagle Bay, where he is well remembered for his successful efforts in establishing a Cooperative for the benefit of people there.

Fr McAtamney has also served in a number of places including the Peninsular Parish and Kalumburu.

Fr Pat was a Lay Missionary in Broome Diocese before becoming a priest and assisted in building churches in Broome and Derby.

We are grateful for their assistance. Fr Pat has been in Halls Creek while Fr Joe has been supplying in La Grange-Bidyadanga and Derby.

LA GRANGE-BIDYADANGA has a new Parish Assistant. Terry Bird who is a volunteer from Devonport, Tasmania is assisting Parish Priest, Fr Emil Ciecierega with the many and varied duties in the parish, including transmitting the daily weather report. We wish him well during his time in the Diocese.

SR. ELIZABETH DOWTON, RSJ has arrived in Kununurra to join Sr Robyn McNamara. Sr Elizabeth, like Sr Robyn, is a Federation Josephite and has spent the last six years in Dunedoo, central NSW. In recent years Sr Elizabeth has worked in Papua New Guinea and brings to this latest appointment her many gifts especially in the area of hospitality. We welcome Sr Elizabeth and pray that her time in the Kimberley will be happy as well as enriching.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME AUSTRALIA has announced that Derby born Lynette Rodriguez will take over as Coordinator of Aboriginal Studies on the University’s Broome Campus in 2006. Lynette is a family member of the Kunmunya Aboriginal Community and began her teaching career in Derby twenty seven years ago. Lynette’s experience in education spans from being an Aboriginal Teaching Assistant at Holy Rosary School in Derby to Acting Principal of Clontarf Aboriginal College in Perth. She has tertiary teaching experience as a tutor, sessional lecturer and lecturer at Edith Cowan, Murdoch and Curtin Universities. Lynette will replace John Bucknell who has retired from the University after five years.

TONY DELANEY leads the St Mary’s College Broome component of the West Kimberley Football Academy. Tony grew up in Perth and was educated at John XXIII College. He has played football for Claremont, Essendon, the Dockers and St Kilda. He studied Health and Physical Education at Notre Dame University in Fremantle and is now looking forward to the new Football Academy operating at St Mary’s. His aim at the Academy is to help give the students life skills and opportunities, and for Broome to benefit from the skills the students learn.

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If you ask a group of people ‘What is the purpose of life? and What is the best way to live your life?’ you are bound to get a variety of answers. Such answers will be determined by a whole range of factors. One major factor will be an individual’s religious belief and how each person exists in relationship with God. A Christian believer will answer the above questions from the perspective of their Catholic convictions drawn from scripture and tradition. So strong are these faith foundations that they assist us to achieve great things even to the point of being able to bear enormous loss and deprivation. A friend who recently suffered the death of a loved one said to me: “Without faith there is no consolation but with faith there is peace”. It is also vitally important that we use these foundations in faith to live our lives to the full, to celebrate our lifetime with joy and purpose. But how do we achieve these goals? How is our commitment to joy and purpose sustained?

The sixth chapter of the gospel of Matthew records Jesus’ words regarding the essential pillars of discipleship – prayer, fasting and almsgiving. To understand these properly is to appreciate the way to a truly human life lived according to its full potential.

When Jesus speaks about Prayer he is referring to private prayer and communal prayer. A private prayer life is meditative and focuses on Jesus as our way to the Father. Private prayer, like Communal prayer, builds up our faith relationship with God and with each other. So it is that we are called to strive to live a moral life thus bringing our prayers and relationships to perfection in Christ.

Fasting for Jesus is a positive action that immerses us in the deeper more profound issues that are part of human living. Fasting takes us away from selfishness and helps us to concentrate on what is important and essential and just. In a redeemed environment where we live for others, Social Justice is of paramount importance. It is not an optional extra but is at the very heart of Christian living entwined with communal and private prayer.

Almsgiving is the product of charity. Searching to alleviate the burdens of others, being prepared to act out of love, becoming involved even at a personal cost is part of our response to the call of Jesus ‘Come follow me’.

In today’s venal world it is possible to live an unconfronted life, content to stroll along with the mediocre, never attempting to reach for the perfection that fulfils us as human beings. The season of Lent is a special season that affords so many opportunities to reflect on the lifetime of celebration to which we are called. Now is a good time to assess how we are going. Such a reflection may help us to build on the foundations of faith and live life to the full.
A Roman Double for Kimberley Sisters
International Awards for RNDM Sisters

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions have much to celebrate. Four of their number have received awards from Rome based MultiMedia International (MMI).

Two religious Sisters well-known in the Kimberley, Sr Mary Evans and Sr Helena Brabender each received a prestigious award. Sr Mary for her book The Greatest Surprise and Sr Helena for her design of a stained glass window.

Sr Mary wrote The Greatest Surprise to help children as they grieve at the death of a friend or loved one. The story, which can be helpful for people of all ages, was written in 2003 while Sr Mary was working as the Pastoral Associate in Derby. At this time her seven year old grand-nephew was dying from a brain tumour. It is a very colourful book and is beautifully illustrated by Kasey Kearney who was a teacher at Holy Rosary School in 2003.

The book was published last year and is available from the author at Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, 79A Seventh Ave, Maylands 6005.

Sr Helena’s window entitled “A Missionary Journey” received an “Honourable Mention” at the coveted MMI awards. The commemorative window was commissioned by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions to recognise over 100 years of missionary service throughout Australia. The window on the left commemorates the five founding Sisters as they set out by ship from New Zealand to Australia. The window on the right features the international emblem of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM) surrounded by Australian flora of gum leaf and wattle. The window is presently housed in Perth, in what was the original Provincial and Novitiate House of the RNDM Sisters since 1897.

Foundation Cake

Alis Hart is the Year 6 teacher at Holy Rosary School in Derby. Alis has lived all her life in Derby. She is married to Steve and they have four children.

Alis tells us that this is a really great recipe if you are making cakes for a fete, birthday or just for an afternoon snack. The recipe is a basic recipe and you can add any flavours to create different cakes. Alis used this recipe a lot while cooking at Numbala Nunga Nursing Home in Derby.

The recipe is for a large cake. The ingredients are tripled so you can make one 20cm round cake by dividing the ingredients by three.

Ingredients

1 tub margarine
3 cups sugar (alternative is to use Equal sweetener for those who cannot have sugar)
8 eggs
3 cups milk (extra if needed)
6 cups self raising flour
2 Tbs. vanilla essence (or you might like to use bananas, apple, orange juice, sultanas, chocolate, etc)

Method:

Heat oven to 180-190 degrees. Cream butter and sugar together in a bowl. Add eggs one at a time. Sift S.R. Flour at least 3 to four times before folding into wet ingredients then add into the sugar, eggs and margarine mixture. Slowly add milk and vanilla essence until mixture is free of lumps (smooth texture). Pour into large tray and place into the oven. Cook for about an hour if doing large cake or for 45 minutes for a small cake. Check cake by placing a skewer into it or touching the top of cake. If cake springs up, cake is done.

Alis says….

“Have fun with this recipe and I hope that it works for you”.

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Compassion in Action – Project Compassion’s 2006 theme

Speaking to his community over a thousand years ago, Saint John said that “our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active.”

That same simple yet profound message is just as important now as ever before and has been re-echoed by Pope Benedict in his first encyclical, Deus Caritas Est (God is Love).

The second half of this recent encyclical is a closely argued passage on the practical theological issues around the ministry of charity, and it shows that Pope Benedict is making a strong commitment to the Vatican II model of a church of service to all people.

It also argues that Christian charity is an outreach to the whole world, irrespective of religious tradition, gender or even politics. It encourages us not just to relieve the suffering of the poor but also to ask why they are poor.

So our “Compassion in Action” theme for Project Compassion this year is particularly synchronistic with Pope Benedict’s sentiments.

While Caritas Australia continues to respond to emergencies, the main work of Caritas Australia today is in long-term community development which encourages self reliance. It’s about working in partnership with many communities at the grass roots level to promote peace and justice.

Among our many projects, through Project Compassion 2006, Caritas Australia would like to help:

• The people of Tanzania to access safe drinking water
• Empower Indigenous Australian women in remote communities
• Provide trauma support for the people of the Solomon Islands
• Improve human rights and access to education for children in Bolivia.
• The people of Papua New Guinea fight against HIV/AIDS.

For more information please contact Caritas Diocesan Director, Fr Emil Ciecierega SDS on 08 9192 4950.

By contributing to Project Compassion you will be helping people in Tanzania to access safe drinking water. In the photo a local community in Kighare help install pipes for their new water system which was funded by Caritas Australia.

Photo: S Spragu.

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By Fr Emil Ciecierega, Diocesan Director

Yesteryear...
images from our past

Tug of war at Kalumburu Mission during Feastday Celebrations. Circa 1939.
Year of Deserts

The year 2006 has been declared the UN International Year of Deserts and Desertification. The logo for the year is at the end of this article. The Diocese of Broome has permission to use the logo in its publications this year.

The elements of the logo are explained as follows:

**THE TREE** covers the logo as a protective roof, symbolizing the fight against deforestation through conservation, afforestation and reforestation activities. Moreover, the tree represents intelligent cultivation, the control of drought and the rebirth of life itself.

**THE SUN**, symbol of warmth and life, is a strong feature in desert landscapes and a very important element in the life of all those living in these regions.

**THE DUNES** are formed of several colours: the brown to represent intensified soil conservation; the yellow and the orange to represent the sand dunes and all the living creatures of the desert; and finally the green, to show vegetation and agriculture.

The rich brown earth colour and the paler shade of the "International Year of Deserts and Desertification" have been chosen to represent the fertile soils that can be obtained if desertification is properly controlled and deserts are respected.

Our own Christian tradition has a rich history of desert spirituality. The desert figures in both Hebrew and Christian scriptures and conjures up both positive and negative images. But one consistent message is that the desert is the place where we confront our own demons and also the place where we can meet our God. For example, it was the journey in the desert that convinced the Israelites that God was a God not confined to any one place, but an “everywhere God”.

So while there is an ecological imperative to resist the encroachment of the desert into fertile lands and to care for the earth, the water and the air of our planet, this year could also be a time to re-examine the place of ‘desert time’ in our busy lives and how best to allow space for our God to be present to us. Perhaps time is our most precious non-renewable resource; we need to use it wisely. ‘Wasting time’ in quiet and really allowing our immediate environment to touch us in such a visually rich place as the Kimberley could not help but move us to conservation and restoration of that environment; vital aims of this international year.

Happy contemplation!

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From the Office of Justice, Ecology & Peace

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The Wonders of the Kimberley

A glimpse at its unique environment

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‘In the beginning …’

By Brian Kane

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It is difficult enough for us to propel our minds back 3000 years BC to the time of the pyramids in Egypt let alone millions of years ago to when the Kimberley was formed. On reflection, our lifetime on earth would hardly represent a dot on this kind of scale. Geologists using a radiometric dating technique agree that our earth is approximately 4,600 million years old. The Kimberley emerged 1,900 million years ago from a continental plate of sand and silt in a shallow sea surrounded by mountain belts. The drifting plate eventually collided with Northern Australia producing upheavals of molten rock and lava which spread out across the land. Over time, weathering produced sediment which covered the valleys and rivers carved out gorges and waterfalls through sandstone and volcanic rocks. In the western Kimberley, the Lennard and Fitzroy Rivers cut their way through the limestone of the Napier Range forming Windjana and Geikie Gorges. These gorges contain the ancient Devonian ocean reef which still extends 50-100m above the plain today.

It is hard to imagine that over 600 million years ago ice covered most of Australia and the evidence of this can be clearly seen. The water eventually dissolved the limestone, forming caves like Tunnel Creek. In Purnululu (Kija word meaning sandstone) National Park the Bungle Bungle range was formed 375 million years ago of sandstone, pebbles and boulders. Weathering eventually produced the beehive domes with horizontal orange and black stripes. The name ‘Bungle Bungle’ is thought to be a corruption of the Aboriginal name for the area or linked to ‘bundle bundle’ grass. This area was well known to the Aboriginal people who used its plant and animal life which were abundant each wet season. Purnululu was relatively unknown to the outside world until it was declared a National Park in 1987 and later was given world heritage listing in 2003 both for its geological features and for its rich Aboriginal culture spanning over 20,000 years. Today the members of the Warmun Aboriginal community offer a valuable contribution in their knowledge and understanding of this unique environment.
Mirrilingki is looking for volunteers

For 1 September to 10 December 2006.

This is a chance for people to experience life in community in the Australian outback, contributing to the ministry of Mirrilingki Spirituality Centre.

Volunteers are needed who are willing and able to do ordinary things with flair and enthusiasm.

If you wish to know more, please visit our website www.users.bigpond.com/mirrilingki

If you would like to be part of our community please ring Sister Nellie Versluys RSJ on (08) 9168 7884 and/or fill in the application form on our website.

Mirrilingki is a cross-cultural Catholic centre which seeks to promote formation in ministry and personal development across the Church of the Kimberley in the spirit of National Reconciliation.

Warmun Elders Scripture Program

The Mirrilingki programs for the year have got off to a good start with the Warmun Elders Scripture Program held from 24 to 26 February. The Elders often say, “Coming here for this program makes us strong.”

Volunteers have arrived

The first volunteers for the year arrived at Mirrilingki in early February. Dominique Costello, a university student from Brisbane is back again for three weeks having come at this time last year. Stephanie Hook from Merriwa NSW has also recently arrived in our midst. Stephanie has recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree and hopes to be with us for the year.

While Sisters Nellie Versluys and Frances Flemming were enjoying a well-earned break over Christmas, Helen and Laurie Short from Silverwater in country NSW were caretaking at Mirrilingki. They did a wonderful job and had a taste of a good Wet Season with much drama during a violent electrical storm when trees were felled and considerable damage done on the property. The clean up was ably handled by Laurie—chain saw in hand, collecting branches and making many trips to the tip.

Caretaking at Mirrilingki

Laurie Short at work cleaning up after the storm.

Nancy Nodea (left) and Betty Carrington at the Warmun Elders’ Scripture Program.

Dominique (left) and Stephanie having a break between jobs.

Laurie Short at work cleaning up after the storm.
University of Notre Dame Australia

Executive Director for Broome Campus
By N Baker

The University of Notre Dame Australia has announced the appointment of Gavin Greaves to the position of Executive Director of the Broome Campus. Mr Greaves has held the position of Director of the Broome Campus for more than 12 months.

The position of Executive Director was previously held by Fremantle based University Provost, Professor Jennifer Nicol. Mr Greaves’ appointment sees the role of Executive Director now based in Broome.

In making the announcement, Vice Chancellor Dr Peter Tannock acknowledged the outstanding contribution to the Broome Campus made by Mr Greaves since his appointment in late 2004. Mr Greaves said the goal of Notre Dame Broome Campus is to provide higher education and vocational education and training in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

“In doing this we aim to provide strong support for the process of reconciliation with Aboriginal people of the regions,” he added. Mr Greaves has extensive experience in education including teaching at Nulungu College (now St Mary’s College) in Broome, Northampton District High School, Sacred Heart College Sorrento and Mackillop Catholic College in Busselton.

Looma students visit Notre Dame
By N Baker

The Broome campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia, featured in a recent visit to Broome by Year 8 to 12 students from Looma Remote School.

The students spent time with staff and took part in a tour of the university, including the on-campus accommodation, to find out what opportunities are available for them on the University’s Broome Campus.

Looma teacher and tour organiser, Yvonne Brown, said the students were in Broome as part of a work experience and vocational education camp.

Head of Vocational Education and Training (VET) on Broome Campus, Catherine Maughan, said the students were very interested in all aspects of the VET program.

“VET courses have been developed in consultation with Aboriginal communities and organisations to meet specific industry needs in rural and remote areas for Indigenous students.

The students asked many interesting questions about the Certificates III and IV in Education, the Diploma of Education and our Certificates II, III and IV in Business,” said Ms Maughan.

“The VET program and the Broome Campus approach to studying is unique. The students are able to come and be a part of the campus which gives them an insight into how successful study could see them working in their communities in either the business or education sectors,” added Ms Maughan.

2006: Continue giving to Catholic Mission

I would like to wish our parish and school communities in the Diocese of Broome, who have so generously contributed to the work of Catholic Mission, a happy and peaceful 2006. I would like to encourage all of you to continue supporting the work of the Pontifical Mission Society as you have done in the past. I strongly believe that when we give our time to those in need, we are following the example of Jesus who again and again reached out to the oppressed and the poor.

Catholic Mission is working in many communities of the world, where the need is very great. Because of its global dimension, Catholic Mission does not simply carry out humanitarian work but also seeks to provide for spiritual needs as well. Jesus said ‘I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full’ (Jn10: 10). In this way he is calling each of us to do what we can to ensure that all people can experience the joy of life, now as well as in eternity.

One of the projects Catholic Mission is supporting is Fostering Local Church Leadership through the Society of St Peter Apostle. This project includes the training of seminarians such as Darias Modi. Darias was in a seminary in Sudan before the country erupted into civil war and he was forced to flee to Uganda where he is now continuing his priestly studies. He believes it will be a great challenge when the time comes to return to Sudan. Darias says, “The transition from “missionary” church to “local” church will help people to understand their faith and the Gospel more fully. Other tribes are moving in from the north and Christians will need great spiritual strength, to resist this incursion”.

My hope and prayer is that we can all sustain great care and concern for our sisters and brothers in less fortunate parts of the world in 2006 and beyond. Your donation to Catholic Mission will help Darias complete his training to become a priest and return to his own country.

Christ the King

The Feast of Christ the King was celebrated in the beautiful grounds of Lombadina Park in front of Christ the King Church. The Feastday is an important annual celebration for the Djarindjin and Lombadina communities and includes Baptisms and First Holy Communion. Here the first Communicants are photographed with Fr Bernard Amah and Fr Walter McNamara.

La Grange - Bidyadanga

Farewell

Sr Bernadette Hynes and Sr. Robyn McNamara at their farewell Mass and celebrations on their departure from La Grange-Bidyadanga Parish. Sr Bernadette has relocated to Sydney and Sr Robyn has been appointed as the Pastoral Associate in Kununurra.
Mary is looking after Balgo

After World Youth Day last year, Fr Matt Digges visited Poland. At Church Leader, Tossy Baadjo’s request he looked for an almost indestructible statue of Our Lady of Lourdes. Finding one, he purchased it and to the amusement of Darwin Customs people, brought it home as luggage.

The statue now stands outside Tossy’s home in Balgo. Lasallian Volunteer, Gary Hamer, built a base for it. People stop on their way past to touch the statue and say a prayer and at night often sleep there in swags. The statue reminds them of Mary’s care for all Christians, particularly the sick.

Happy Anniversary

By Mena Baadjo

February 1st was the fifteenth anniversary of priestly ordination of Fr Matt Digges of the Kutjungka. Church Leaders together with Parish Volunteer, Letitia Pickett, organised a party after a special Mass in Balgo. To celebrate the occasion Church Leaders collected money and Tossy Baadjo presented Fr Matt with a bike so that he can ride around Balgo instead of walking.

What a lot of water!

The rain has come to the desert after a dry year! The Kutjungka has received above average rainfall that has left two of the three main communities isolated. The recently built Kururrungku Bridge at Sturt Crossing near Billiluna was under 2m of water in mid February. The road on the eastern side of the creek was badly damaged and may take months to be repaired sufficiently for trucks to use. Fr Matt Digges and student, John Purnell, attempted to drive across the bridge to celebrate Mass. They were stopped by the ‘blue water’ which has spilt out onto the floodplain and washed away part of the road. The Tanami Road south has been damaged by large amounts of rain at Rabbit Flat. The State Emergency Service has assisted in the aerial resupply of the Kutjungka Communities.

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Billiluna

The Big Wet
By Pat Holden

Billiluna is enjoying a big wet this year. The new Kururrungku Bridge has been under water and the floodwater sign of 2.5 metres disappeared in the flood waters. The water from Mayara Pool joined with Sturt Creek and the flooding on the back road was only 20 metres from the Principal’s house. The frogs’ chorus at night is very entertaining. Many people enjoyed swimming and fishing in the milky water.

Fishing off the back of the ute. Photo: P Holden.

Eating Healthy
By M Burns

Senior students at the Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre are cooking healthy food once a week. One of their favourites is New York Pizza made “from scratch”.

Kristara Judrill and Suraya Sambo show off their skills in the Kitchen. Photo: M Burns.

Batik in Billiluna

Mary Burns, a teacher at Kururrungku has conducted two workshops for adults in Billiluna using batik, Shibori and dyeing techniques. Those attending the class are very creative and talented. Isabel Palmer (front) & Theresa Kungah create some masterpieces during the workshops.

Photo: M Burns.

Luurnpa

A Good Start
By Jenny Brookel

To start the school year off at Luurnpa Catholic School, Parish Priest, Father Matt Digges celebrated Mass for staff, students and community members. Students built up a picture story board on Creation as the story was told to them by Sr. Nola. And, like the Creation story, “it was very good”.

Beagle Bay

The new and the old
By Damien Geaney

Sacred Heart School, Beagle Bay has three new teachers this year. Tim Casey is teaching the Year 6 & 7’s and comes to us with a background in South-East Asian studies, mathematics in practice, history, social science, French and Indonesian studies, health and vocational education and counselling and consulting work. Simon Moore also joins the school staff and will teach the secondary students. He has come to us from Balga Senior High in Perth, and his areas are arts and sport. Pam Bettison is teaching computer and also coordinating the VET Program. Pam has joined us with great knowledge and wisdom after working at the University of Notre Dame in Broome. She has a background in commerce, business and information technology.

At the end of last year we said goodbye to three teachers. Ron and Natalie McIver have headed back to Melbourne after two years at Beagle Bay. They both demonstrated great service, dedication and hard work during their time at Sacred Heart School. Frank Birrell, who had been at Sacred Heart for nine years has taken up the position as Assistant Principal (RE) at Holy Rosary School in Derby. Frank forged great friendships and taught scores of children over the nine years, some of whom have children of their own now at the school.

L-R: Tim Casey, Pam Bettison, Simon Moore. Photo: L Geaney.
Warmun

Footy Clinic at Ngalangangpum School

By P Cowan.

Ngalangangpum School in Warmun recently played host to retired West Coast Eagles player Glen Jakovich, who conducted a football clinic at the school. Students from Dawul School at Doon Doon also attended. The purpose of the clinic, which was initiated by Senior Constable Karl Williams who is stationed at Argyle, was to encourage children to regularly attend school. Glen also encouraged the students to eat a healthy diet, be well mannered and polite and to be enthusiastic in everything they do. He presented the two schools with autographed footballs to use as incentives for students to regularly attend at school. Sister Alma Cabassi presented Glen with clapping sticks made by Polly Widadjil. Polly teaches the children the craft of clapping stick making after their bush trips.

Ms Rika Rouw, a visiting ceramic artist from Margaret River, assisted students from St Joseph’s School, Kununurra over a period of six weeks to produce a beautiful mural of special landmarks and features of Kununurra town. Sponsors and invited guests were present at the official blessing. A grant from the Country Areas Program covered the cost of materials and accommodation for the artist.

The purpose of the project was to give students the experience of working with a renowned artist to produce a lasting memory of the Kununurra district.

Changes are happening at St Joseph Kununurra!

By Carol Geurts

Classrooms have gone Mainstream for all students at St Joseph’s. Teachers reported a very smooth start to Term 1. Students were obviously curious about new comers and lots of sharing of personal stories has taken place these last weeks. Enrolments for junior classes have been in great demand so much so that St Joseph's has waiting lists from Kindy to Year 3. The school community looks forward to a rewarding, enriching learning environment for all in 2006.

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An exciting start

By Brian Kane

Students and staff at St Mary’s College in Broome have successfully begun another year of learning full of hope and promise to build on the achievements of 2005. We congratulate the 2005 Year Twelve students on graduating and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Congratulations are extended to Troy Credlin who as the Dux of the College achieved a TER of 91.15. A special welcome is extended to new staff and the new families who have joined the St Mary’s community.

Exciting initiatives at the College have begun with the Reading Recovery Training Programme having a successful start under the careful direction of Mrs Trish Bremner on the Primary campus. The West Kimberley Football Academy has made a very promising start on the Secondary campus. The College PSPI (Parents School Partnership Initiative) Programmes being developed include the operation of Homework/Study facilities on both campuses and a programme designed to involve parents as active participants in the life of the College.

Check Mate

By Jacky Brown, Chess Coordinator

After seeing the photo of our ‘knock out’ final in the Broome Advertiser, the year 8 & 9 class from La Grange School took it upon themselves to fax a challenge to the best year 8 & 9 students at St Mary’s College Broome. The match was played at the Mangrove Resort Hotel towards the end of last year. Ten competitors from each school rose to the challenge.

The big chessboard in the Mangrove garden formed the main stage surrounded by multiple games on the garden tables. Students from both schools battled for over an hour. In a meeting of some clever minds the competition included great tactics and some tough concentration. One game consisted of female pairs from each school competing in a team challenge. A lot of interest surrounded the match-up between the schools’ number one seeds. Out of 15 games 8 were won by St Mary’s College and 7 were won by La Grange School. It was a great chance to get chess enthusiasts from both schools together, socially competing and enjoying the afternoon.

ICT@SMC

By Terri Van Zetten, ICT Specialist

Over the last two years St Mary’s Primary campus has become a leading school in terms of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Principals from around the state including Perth, often contact us at St Mary’s for advice on ICT in Primary Education.

All children from Pre-Primary to Year 7 participate in weekly ICT lessons in a modern computing room. The children learn to use a range of applications from word processing, internet browsing to multimedia and animation creation whilst improving their problem solving skills and love for ICT.

The Primary Campus has three interactive whiteboards: huge touch screens which encourage co-operative learning and students enthusiasm towards education. Interactive whiteboards have proven in many countries to improve teaching pedagogy (teaching and learning practices), attendance and student enjoyment.

Last year, a computing club for Years 4 to 7 was implemented. The students meet weekly after school to create ICT products and develop their skills. In the first year of the program the students won first prize in an Australian Movie competition, Vitta 3in6! According to the coordinator of the competition, the movie “took the Vitta conference by storm … the teachers down here (in Melbourne) are scared about the quality of work coming from Broome”.

The College is also a trial video conference school. Already staff have used this technology to conference with East Kimberley schools for Reading Recovery professional development. Students also thoroughly enjoy talking to students from around the state with this resource.
3. There appears to be a new band in the East Kimberley making music at Ngalangangpum School, Warmun - an educational establishment for real swingers. These new teachers have joined the staff this year and come from far and wide - from left : Leanne Mahy has come from Sydney, Alida Cowan from Adelaide, Imogen Thompson from London, Jo Filippini from Melbourne and almost the local girl, Liz Butcher from Esperance. Photo: P Cowan.

1. A horse is a horse, of course, of course, and no-one can talk to a horse, of course, unless of course, the horse is that famous Mr Ed. Is this him brushing up his reading at Kururrungku Catholic School at Billiluna? Photo: M Burns.

2. Like her mother, Madison Ellett of Kununurra, seen here with Bishop Christopher Saunders, is an enthusiastic artist. Madison won the prize for the cover of the Christmas Edition of Kimberley Community Profile with a wonderful Christmas scene of the Holy Family and the three wise men.

4. There was keen competition at the games celebrating Christ the King Feastday at Djarindjin-Lombadina. Stephen Sampi won the boomerang throwing with a keen eye and a strong right arm. Photo: G Holland.

5. Students from St Mary’s College go through their paces at training at the West Kimberley Football Academy - an exciting innovation for the youth of Broome. Photo: D Kelly.