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## New Centre at Muswellbrook NSW

The Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre 'Partnerships for Success' began operation early in 2010 after discussions with stakeholders, partners and sponsors in 2009. The Project is based on similar successful projects operating in Western Australia and the Muswellbrook Enrichment Centre, located on Wanaruah land, is the first to be implemented in New South Wales.

The Enrichment Centre operates after school, Monday to Thursday in a classroom located on the Upper Hunter TAFE, Muswellbrook campus. In the first year 27 students from the local high school were involved in the program and all the year 12 students successfully graduated and have gone on to further studies, apprenticeships and traineeships.

Students walk to the Centre after school and enjoy a nutritious afternoon tea and then complete their school assessment tasks or other activities with tutors to consolidate or



**Coordinator Debbie Douglass**

extend their skills.

Career planning leadership and Aboriginal cultural awareness activities also help enrich all our

students and transport home is provided for eligible students.

In our first year, 12 students achieved 100% attendance rate. Students took part in dance workshops, art gallery excursions, Sydney Leadership and Challenge Camp and an end of year Reward and Cultural Camp.

The 2011 year has started positively with 32 students attending the Centre and the TAFE providing extra rooms which are dedicated to the Program.

### 100% Attendance

- Jesse Armstrong
- Izac Armstrong
- Sho-ella Smith
- Margaret Birch
- Thelma Birch
- Adram Greedon
- Allira Scott
- Ashliegh Garlett
- Tianhi Hall
- Jordeana Howard
- Owen Nulgit
- Ashley Davies

### New Member of the Team

Beth Crowley joined the Graham Polly Farmer Foundation in February 2011 and brings to the role an extensive teaching background in rural Victoria and Melbourne, as well as experience in a variety of allied roles in education administration, enrichment, policy and project management.



## CEO Welcome



### A YEAR OF GROWTH AND CONSOLIDATION

Welcome to our first edition of 'Make Your Mark'.

2011 sees the Foundation consolidate and extend its association with key partners BHPB Iron Ore and Rio Tinto into the future. Port Hedland, Newman, Carnarvon, Tom Price, Karratha/

Roebourne, and Kununurra have all benefited.

We also welcome Wesfarmers as a partner in Mandurah and Kalgoorlie.

Also we have a new partnership in Broome for 75 students with the partners being the W A Department of Education, the W A Catholic Education Office and Woodside Energy.

# Kununurra Vietnam Adventure



*“Those people over there are just going all the time, they’re always working and eating and busy! Where are we going next year!”*

As the ‘Vietnam Dreamers’ waited in Darwin airport to board their flight to Ho Chi Minh City nerves were jangling, it was their first time overseas. Around six hours later, they were in a city of 6 million, their outlook on the world had been broadened forever!



The seven students had all been selected based on their dedication to the schooling and their determination to succeed in life. Long hours had been put in by all at the program’s enrichment centre as they made sure they maintained their grades and kept their school attendance high.

The long process of getting to Ho Chi Minh City started months before, organizing students’ birth certificates and ID to obtain passports. Students then began to fundraise



in the local community to raise money for Vietnamese schools they would be visiting.

When we arrived in Vietnam we were trying to balance the fatigue with the shock of the noise, glare, sights and smells of the city streets, a long way from our little community of Kununurra.

The next morning Akram and Lawrence, Year 9 students, stood aghast at Ho Chi Minh’s biggest intersection as thousands of scooters, motorbikes, taxis, vans, cars and trucks went west, south, north and east with no regard for road rules or apparently safety. “This place is insane,” said Akram.



The next day we joined up with the Saigon Children’s Charity, a small grassroots mob who work with schools for disadvantaged students and delivered a swag of resources that the students’ fundraising had bought. By the end of day two these resilient and adaptable students were acting as though they had been travelling all their life! Darting across eight lanes of traffic, haggling with shopkeepers and joking with the locals on the street, they were all discovering the joys of travelling and experiencing another culture.

Tragically the trip changed when two of our students lost

two brothers in an accident back in the Kimberley. We headed straight back to Ho Chi Minh City to arrange for the students and their Aunt to fly back to Kununurra. Our thoughts were with our friends during this time.



On our final day we visited the Sunshine School which cares for children with disabilities. Students spent the day looking after the youngster and realizing how fortunate they are to have the resources and support that they have through the Follow the Dream/Partnership for Success program at their school.

After another bout of frenzied shopping which brought the total number of shoes bought to over 30 and DVDs into the thousands, we headed back to Australia. Like true Kimberley kids they were yearning for home and the wide open wilderness, but first we stayed in Darwin to look at the career and training options they have after school.

After eleven days away relieved parents were all waiting on their children’s arrival home, weary and laden with presents, but having had their understanding of the world totally changed.

“It was champs,” says Lawrence Evans. “Those people over there are just going all the time, they’re always working and eating and busy. Where are we going next year?” Garry Dagg (Coordinator)

To read and see more images check our Facebook page.

# Port Hedland Centre for Creative Art

The Harmony Tree project was an extension work project designed around the concept of Reconciliation. The students from PHEPS decided to design and build a sculpture for the town. The main aim I had in mind was to use the tree as a strong motivational tool for all students involved excelling in their studies.

This involved engaging a local sculpture artist and other local artists as well as local businesses to unite and volunteer to help the students in the creation and the eventual completion and citing of the tree. Students wrote letters, emails, poems and stories about the tree as well as solving mathematical problems relating to the dimen-

sions of the Tree. All students at the centre in 2009/2010 took an active part and interest in this project however most of the extension work was completed by the year 8/9 2009 and 10 students in 2010 as the year 11 and 12 students are very busy with trying to complete their WACE. One of our past students who has a particular artistic talent was also involved last year with assisting us with draft pictures for the base of the tree. Sadly he is in Perth at present and unavailable for any further assistance for the moment.

The tree was created from recycled materials such as old railway

spikes local discarded steel pipes and an old lamp post. The local community members involved in the project contributed a lot of time as well as expenses to make this happen.

The tree was erected at the All Seasons Hotel in Port Hedland in September 2009 which was its temporary position until it was moved towards the end of 2010. It is now permanently erected at Port Hedland airport in a garden which was designed around the tree with seating arrangements completed by Polar Aviation just outside their new hangar. The Polar Aviation building is situated in a prime position at the airport.



The tree is now for all guests and residents of the town to see. There is a plaque placed under the tree stating it was built by our students. As soon as our weather is a bit more temperate and the monsoon season has stopped the students will paint the base with modern aboriginal art depicting pictures of the past and present. Elke Rhodes (Coordinator)

## Up and coming Artist at Carnarvon

Mahalia Drayton has been a student at Carnarvon Senior High School and a member of Carnarvon Enrichment Centre since Year 8 the same period of time. Her two sisters, Rhiannon and Madison both also attended the Centre. Mahalia has just sold her first piece of work. The up and coming artist explained the motivation for her painting . 'A Sense of Place'. was about where we belong The painting depicts the changes that have occurred since

European settlement and how Aboriginal people still retain their identity. Brand Nue Day also influenced the painting and the quote is taken directly from the film.

When Mahalia graduates at the end of this year then she will attend TAFE in Geraldton.

Mahalia plans to become a nanny and travel the world.



(LtoR) Krissy Betts, Mahalia Drayton and Amber Lee

*“Mahalia plans to become a nanny and travel the world.”*

# Big Thanks to Joe Manning and Marie Klein

Carnarvon Follow the Dream/ Partnerships for Success was fortunate to have Joe Manning, 'man' the fort while John West took up the position of Deputy Principal at Carnarvon Senior High School for 2010.

There have been a number of highlights during Joe's time including a visit during NAIDOC celebrations from Yamatji man Ernie Dingo. Ernie spoke to students who attend the Enrichment Centre.

Joe stated, I have very much enjoyed being a part of the program and have found it to be a very rewarding experience. Thank you again for the great opportunity to be a part of such a positive program. Joe Manning was again Acting Project Coordinator at Carnarvon during Term Two, while John West was on long service leave.

Congratulations to Marie Klein who was Acting Project Coordinator at Newman in Semester Two 2010 and has now been appointed in the position for 2011.



Photo: Carnarvon Partnership for Success students with Ernie Dingo who visited the Centre.

## Coordinator in the Spotlight

### How long have you been coordinator at Port Augusta?

I returned to Port Augusta in August 2006 to set up the program. At that stage we had a building and 10 students who came from the Pilot Program. In the same year we established the Enrichment Centre and got out into the community meeting parents, families and the potential students. We became fully operational in 2007 with 26 students.

### What are some of the highlights from your time as coordinator?

There have been so many highlights. I think having the previous students come back and visiting the Centre and coming to my home has been a rewarding experience for me. However some of the highlights are students who have achieved their career ambitions or have gone onto further study. I strongly

encouraged one student to apply for a Trainee Position in the ANZ Bank.

He went on to be the first South Australian Aboriginal to complete a traineeship in the banking industry. He won a permanent position in the ANZ Bank and has since returned to Port Augusta and is now second in charge at the bank. For a young man who just completed Year 12 and did not know what he what to do he has developed into a very strong Aboriginal man with a future career in front of him.

### What do you do in your spare time?

I am passionate about the outdoors. Bushwalking usually in the remote areas of the Flinders Ranges, I also assess and mentor trainees in the Bushwalking Leadership awards.

I still assist the school Outdoor Education with running the outdoor climbing camps. I also enjoy kayaking, mountain biking and sailing. My partner Kerry and I have a native garden, chooks and a vegetable garden which manages to fill in the rest of our spare time.

### What do you enjoy most about your work?

The relationships that I have developed with students and their families. Working together with students to realise their dreams, helping them explore the world outside their community, sharing new experiences. Many students had never been on a plane flight and in 2010 twelve students experienced their first flight. Mostly I enjoy watching students achieve success in their education and their life.

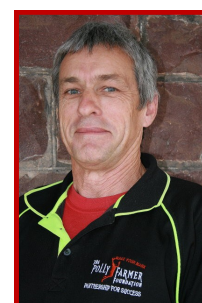


Photo by Ida Beattie

*"... he has developed into a very strong Aboriginal man with a future career in front of him."*