

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control....” (Galatians 5:22-23)

“Yo, God-Wañarrwalnydja ñunhi Dhuyu-Birrimbirryu limurrnhany ñuli marrtji guṅga’yunna, limurr dhu ga mǎrr-ṅamathinyamirr, ga ṅayaṅu-djulṅithirr, ga nhina limurr dhu ga māgayan yan ga ṅayaṅu-dharraḍan ga ṅayaṅuy mel-wuyunamirriynha, ga manyakkuman yan, ga ṅayaṅu-ḍaḍawyunamiriwnha ga ṅayaṅuy nyilṅ’maranhamirriynha, ga goli-nhirpanmirr limurr dhu marrtji ñunhi ṅayaṅuny mala limurrnguwuy.” (Galatjyalil Dhāwu 5: 22-23)



# Gāwa news

Nov / Dec 2010

Let us all join together to share our joys and love. It has been a wonderful year in Gawa. There have been many fun times and lots of laughter with the children and the community. We cherish the delightful days we have spent with each other.

We also wish to thank everyone for their care, love and support over the past year. God is with us here and it is great to see Him working in our lives, in our community and amongst us all. God bless!  
Lara Hvala - Principal



Lara and Bulkangu

Ben with his students from Damala Class



## Farewell to Van Gelderen Family

Today we say farewell to Kate and Ben who have been working and living in Gawa for the past two years. It is always hard to say goodbye but even harder when we think of the wonderful part they have played in the community and school. Ben has continually challenged and encouraged the children, he has been an amazing teacher and friend who believes that every child is

genuinely remarkable and can flourish. Kate has also been a great cook who can cater delicious meals for 10 or 150 people with ease. You both have played an important role in Gawa – and you will be missed. May God shine on you as you leave your special island home.

Van Gelderen Clan



## 'My Island Home' Lyrics

“Mǎrrma dhungarra ṅarra nhina Gāwaṅur, Ga bitjin bili ṅarra nhāma damurruṅ’ gapu Barrakuṅur ṅarra marrtjin beṅur Sydneyṅur ṅarraku miyalk ga lurrkun gathu.

We came to the saltwater people,  
I came to teach the djamarrkuli  
But I learned much more from  
the ‘iron woman’  
And the old man of the Warramiri.

ṅarraku runu, ṅarraku runu-waṅa,  
ṅarraku runu-waṅa marrkapmirr.

My island home, my island home,  
my island home will be waiting for me.”

Song written and performed  
by Ben at our Christmas Party

## Mexican Fiesta!



This term, both Damala and Mayawa class have been learning about the vibrant and colourful country of Mexico. We have studied culture, customs, ancient civilisation, food, music and dancing, and there was no better way to tie it all together than throwing our own ‘Mexican Fiesta’. The Mayawa classroom was transformed into a restaurant fit for a king and we dined on scrumptious Taco’s and fruity punch around our brightly decorated Mexican paper flower tree. After our bellies were full we turned up the music and showed off our Mexican salsa dancing. The afternoon ended with four piñatas to crack open. It took Mark and Ben’s brute strength to finally break one open as we all dived in and filled our pockets with goodies. What a day! And what an awesome country to learn about this term!!

By Jessica Whitby





Community members performing stingray dance

## Library Opening

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November we celebrated the opening of our new Library. Families and friends joined us and Ms Lynne Walker MLA officially opened the facility. The Library is an amazing space, complete with a range of books, some soundproof reading rooms and a state of the art interactive Smartboard. In support of our 'two way' approach to education, the morning ceremony featured a number of items of a

bicultural nature. There was a traditional dance to welcome everyone, followed by some worship songs in English and Yolngu Matha, banner dances of a traditional and modern style and the "North Wind" dance. The senior 'Damala' class read together a number of books they had studied and the students' art collection "Djamarrkuli" was showcased. Huddled together under the 'kinder' playground, the Library opening was clearly a community event. "Learning is a constant, exciting process and the children here definitely have the best of both worlds! Wonderful homelands, supportive families and educational facilities that are equal to those in larger towns." Principal Lara Hvala concluded. After a communal lunch the heavens opened and the rain came down, echoing the refreshment and excitement of the morning.

By Ben van Gelderen



Lynne Walker and Birriminybuy cut the ribbon to officiate library

## Christmas Party

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

(Luke 2:10-11)

You never know how celebrations at Gawa will unfold and our Christmas party was no exception! We were all surprised to have The Saltwater Band come and perform live in Gawa and everyone was very excited to watch the band sing all our favourite songs. They also led us in Christmas carols, the Mayawa class kids danced, we had a slide show and Ben delighted us with an original song that he performed to say farewell. It was a great night (with a few downpours of rain) and the children were bursting with excitement when they all received Christmas presents at the end of the evening. Once again we thank the families in Melbourne who selected and sent individual presents for all the school kids – the smiles on their faces were priceless!

By Lara Hvala

## Wind Turbine Project

We have been totally humbled by the many donations we have received this month.

God is gracious!

If you would like to make a donation towards the wind turbine project please follow the prompts at : [www.ntcsa.nt.edu.au/gawadonate](http://www.ntcsa.nt.edu.au/gawadonate)

## Prayer and Praise

We give thanks for the endless blessings in our school and community.

We pray that everyone enjoys the school holidays.

We pray for the Gawa team! Gawutjurrwuy, Salome, Ben, Gotha, Mark, Harry, Kate, Jess, Joanne, Basma and Colin. You are all wonderful!



Saltwater Band performing at Christmas Party



## Fishing Competition

We recently had a sponsored Gawa fishing competition day. Representatives from the Police force of Galiwin'ku made the trip up the island with handlines and prizes for the best fish caught on the day. Most people made the trip to Garrawuru (the Point) and though the tides

were high, some interesting fish were landed. More luck was had on the school boat where some nice *njukal* and *dharrapa* were brought in and duly eaten that night for dinner. It was a wonderful afternoon and we look forward to seeing the Police visit again when we'll show some more skills on the low tide!

By Ben van Gelderen



Children with Christmas Gift Bags

## Term Dates

2011

Term 1: 1 Feb—1 April  
Term 2: 11 April—9 June  
Term 3: 19 July—23 Sept  
Term 4: 10 Oct—1 Dec

