

Be completely humble and gentle;  
be patient, bearing with one another  
in love. Make every effort to keep the  
unity of the Spirit through the bond of  
peace.

Ephesians 4: 2-3



# Gäwa news

Edition Two 2015

What a joy it has been this term to get back into regular routines! With kids back in our classrooms, and lots of Yolŋu and Balanda staff working alongside one another, we have been experiencing the joys of doing Christian Education in traditional homelands. We are so very thankful for the work of so many people who have gone before us, and for the way God has continued to bless His people in this place.

You will see in this edition of our newsletter that we have welcomed a number of new Yolŋu staff to our team recently. Through God's provision, and in His perfect timing, we are delighting in the rich joys of finding ways to work together and learn from one another. Our students are enjoying a curriculum which is rich in language and culture. We are very thankful for the privilege of working together in this beautiful place.

Karen



## Mayawa Classroom

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 107:1. In Mayawa, we have spent this term giving thanks to the Lord. Giving thanks for safety during the cyclones, giving thanks for his creation, giving thanks for our home here in Gäwa and giving thanks for Jesus dying on the cross for us. We are also giving thanks for life returning to normal here in Gäwa. Normal includes reading groups, Maths, Yolŋu Matha, Art, PE, Sport, History and Science. There is never a dull moment in Mayawa learning memory verses, tongue twisters and dancing. We are loving giving thanks to God in the "normalness" of school.

Sue



## Damala Classroom

Damala class have continued studying Marine Life. The Rangers came and we learned about different kinds of *mappal* (shellfish) and which intertidal zones they live in. We added to our Marine Life Mural which is now covered with marine species. Each student has chosen an animal to research and is featuring this animal in posters. We learned about the names and times of the tides and which sea animals are hunted during different seasons. We also learned a bit of the story and dance of the *gukuwal* (angelfish). We've had another yolŋu teacher join us, Dhawa Bukulatjpi and he's challenged the whole class to make speeches about themselves. We're all having to come out of our shells! It's such a joy to have three Yolŋu teachers in our class, so much learning is happening now. We've continued our reading of "Nim's Island" and Damala students are writing their own stories of Island adventures. They painted beautiful island maps as part of the creative story writing process. As the term progresses we look forward to presenting our research and publishing and sharing our stories.

Christa





# Amala ga Yothu

(Mother & Child)

Our community run program operates three days a week for kids aged 0 –6. Community mums do a wonderful job getting their children school ready with basic classroom routines.



## ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day was commemorated in Gäwa this year with three key activities. The first activity was making ANZAC Biscuits with Steve and Sal. The students mixed the ingredients, shaped the biscuits into their own unique design and left them

with Steve to cook. Our delicious ANZAC biscuits made for a great morning tea. Our second activity was an ANZAC Day assembly. The assembly was led by Karen and Dhawa. Karen told the story of the ANZACs and how they helped to make Australia a free country. We heard the last post and Steve lowered the flag to half mast as a sign of respect. Our third and final activity of ANZAC Day was a game of footy. We heard the story of Kevin Sheedy from Melbourne who had the idea of playing a big game of footy between Collingwood and Essendon at the MCG. The first game was 21 years ago and now has the biggest crowd for any home and away game in Australian sport. After hearing this story, we picked our teams, painted ourselves in our team colours and started the Gäwa ANZAC Day footy game. A great day had been had by all.



## Post Cyclone News

It has been just over four months since Cyclone Lam and nearly three since Cyclone Nathan and site works in Gäwa are progressing well. We have hosted a number of teams of people on site to support us in the task of restoring the site to pre-cyclone levels. We have been blessed with the support of many groups and individuals who have given time, advice and financial support. Whilst it has been a period of physical and logistic difficulty, we have been relearning the value of working together in a new way.

Geoff

Steve



## New Staff Member



Hannah with her husband, Alvin and their three children Joanne, Calvin and Gabriel.

I grew up in Naṅinyburra homeland with my family. Me, my brothers and sisters would be picked up for school at Gäwa everyday in a ute. My husband grew up in Gäwa and also went to school here. This is his homeland, and this land welcomes our family. I want my kids to grow up here too and learn the same way and the same things. We learn old ways and new ways. But one thing is always the same- we start our day with prayer and keep our eyes on God.

This place, this community and this school is really good for my family. We live and work together, Yolṅu and Balanda. I am very happy in my new job. I enjoy cooking food for the students everyday and love cleaning too!

Hannah Gondarra

