

*Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’
Matthew 22:37-39*



Gäwa news

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This term we have been thinking about living in God’s place, under God’s rule and authority. God’s word helps us understand his good plan for us in how we should live—to love him with all that we have, and to love those around us as we love ourselves.

As God knows us so completely, he also knows what is best for us. Obeying him means that we can fully become the people he has made us to be! Our job is to trust in his goodness and grace, knowing that he is always faithful.

It is with great pleasure that we share the latest news with you from Gäwa. We hope you will see that God is truly faithful!

Karen



Ian Morris visit

This term, our friend Ian Morris came to visit Gäwa community. Ian is a well respected Naturalist based in Darwin and it is a great treat for us to have him all to ourselves in Gäwa! Ian shared many things on this visit including knowledge about rock platform life, natural recovery cycles following cyclones, and feral plants and animals. He also shared some history of Elcho Island and his own personal history of his time living in Galiwin’ku a number of years ago.

Ian’s time was divided between sharing knowledge in the classroom and accompanying students outside to continue their learning about the natural environment around Gäwa. Preserving Yolŋu language and culture is one of Ian’s passions and he worked hard with the students to capture knowledge in both Yolŋu Matha and English. The highlights of his visit were finding an eel on the rock platform and a bird’s egg hidden in the sand dunes. We always love to share Gäwa with Ian and we are already looking forward to his next visit!



Ian with some Gäwa boys; An unusual spotted trepang found in a rockpool; Gathering yummy oysters from the rock platform; A soldier crab found scurrying across the sand.





Community Fun Day

In August, the Gäwa community came together to join in a Community Fun Day. The day was supported by many people including NT Police, football players, school and community members. Children were able to participate in a football clinic, receive donations of sporting equipment and participate in traditional songs and dances. It was a wonderful day of commemoration, affirmation of community identity, and hope for the future.

Thanks, Steve!



Damala class this term has bid farewell to their teacher for this year to date, Steve. We are very thankful to Steve for graciously stepping into the teaching role for this interim time, and for the many ways he was able to serve the students as we transitioned back into school in Gäwa this year. Steve will continue serving the school and supporting staff in various capacities for the remainder of the year.



Welcome to new staff!

We would like to introduce a new addition to our wonderful kitchen staff team. Hannah has worked in the Gäwa community kitchen for just over a year now and has been joined this term by her husband Alvin. Hannah and Alvin have three children who attend Gäwa Christian School and we love having them as part of the team!



Welcome also to our new teacher family!! Bruce and Cathie Price, along with their children Byron and Summer, joined the team at Gäwa at the end of Week 4. Bruce and Cathie are both teachers and will share the load of teaching our older students in Damala Class. Bruce and Cathie have both taught for many years in NSW and are looking forward to the new challenges and experiences of life and work in Gäwa.



Farewell to the Moes Family

This week, it was time for the Gäwa school and community to say goodbye to the Moes family. Harry, Salome, Leilani, Katinka and Sunny have lived in community here in Gäwa for 8 years. They have contributed to school and community life in so many rich and meaningful ways during this time and we will all miss them very much.

We know that God has wonderful plans for them in their next chapter as they continue to serve Him faithfully.

