

Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
 ever singing your praise!
 Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
 in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Psalm 84:4-5



Gäwa news

Edition Three 2013

We are ever aware of the changing seasons in Gäwa! The cooler winds are picking up across the bay, and the change of seasons means we are saying goodbye to the (not so very) wet season of *Gummul*. There are so many small signs around us that signal this change such as the emergence of the tiny wattle buds, the replacement of the abundance of *bonba* (butterflies) with *milimili* (dragonflies), an abundance of the sought after reef fish *laju* and the return of the *mädi* (crayfish). God's majesty in the creation is so evident to us here in Gäwa!

This term we are celebrating being 'In God's Place', and recognising that wherever we are gathered, He dwells there with us! The *djamarrkuji* are learning a new dance to some of the beautiful words from Psalm 84, and will be sharing it with our visitors from Illawarra Christian School in June. It won't be long now before our visitors arrive!

Please continue to pray for our plans as we join in Cultural Exchange with ICS here in Gäwa in June, and in the Illawarra in September. We would love you to consider how you may support us in this exciting opportunity.



By Karen

ANZAC Day



We had a unique opportunity this year to commemorate ANZAC Day with the students and adults from the Gäwa and Ban'thula communities. Students made wreaths and poppies as part of class activities and reflected on the sacrifices made by Australian soldiers. We held a ceremony at the flagpole where we listened to The Last Post and Reveille and observed a minute's silence. Gotha then led the students to a site where a lookout post was manned during WWII and told stories about what happened on this site during that time, including an account of the rescue of an Allied pilot. We enjoyed ANZAC cookies for morning tea, and concluded our time with the inaugural Gäwa ANZAC Day AFL match! It was a valued day of community fellowship and historical commemoration.

By Steve



Mayawa News



The seasons are changing and we are jumping for joy... quite literally. As it gets a little cooler we are learning to skip, with long ropes and short ones, doing tricks with dance steps, partner skipping and some gymnastic feats!

As the wet season finishes we are finding new insects and fruit. The strong easterly wind keeps our turbine spinning providing power and hopefully blowing the stingers away so we can swim again. All this turning has us looking at yet another circle, the life cycle of frogs, which rely on fresh water. Tadpoles, caterpillars and seasons remind us of how our awesome God can change us too as we trust in Him.

By Mandy

Damala News

Damala class has been abuzz this term with the introduction of iPads and the students displaying just how technologically savvy they are! Using iPads, the students have been busy recording their own stories of who they are and their 'Home on Elcho Island'. Having taken a step forward in technology, we are taking a step back in time with our history focus. Alongside our text 'My Place', we are exploring early settlement and focussing on Yolŋu contact with the Macassans. Part of the Macassan influence was the introduction of the *lipalipa* (dug-out canoe) and having made bark canoes, the students have begun working in groups and carving their own *lipalipa*'s.

By Matt





iPads in the classroom

This term we have introduced iPads into our classrooms with much excitement from the *djarrkuli* and their families! There are so many things we can do on them - work on our literacy and numeracy skills, introduce logic and problem solving skills, and even create music! But the focus in our Damala class has been creating stories about 'My Place', including photos and custom made videos to tell the story of life in our beautiful homelands. We are using a wonderful app called Book Creator, and we hope to share some of our stories online once they are finished! It is amazing to see how quickly the children have picked up these new skills and are developing confidence in speaking and recording themselves!

By Karen



Amala Yothu *Mother & Child*

Our Kinder class this year is made up of mostly 3 year olds, so we have adopted more of a playgroup approach to our time together. Our beautiful little *djarrkuli* love to sing songs and enjoy painting, particularly with their hands. They love playing outside with water and sand and making wonderful mixtures they want us mums to taste! We have also been learning that we are Gods children, and that He created us, by looking at our bodies. The mums and kids have been teaching me the body parts in *Yolju Matha* and together we have learnt 'heads and shoulders knees and toes...' in language. We praise God for our Kinder kids and mums and that we can work and play together here in Gäwa.

By Tash



Miyalk Marngi'thirr

In our 'Girls' Knowledge' class this term we have begun an exciting journey into the world of weaving. We have looked at the history of weaving and the various uses of baskets, mats, fishing nets and traps traditionally used in Arnhem Land.

Under the tutelage of some of the women in our community, we have learnt how to collect *gunga* (pandanas leaves), prepare them for drying and how to make natural dyes from plants. Now that most of the hard work is done, we look forward to learning some weaving techniques and making our own basket or wall hanging.

Our girl's program was created to assist building bonds between girls of all ages, while acquiring knowledge and skills. This current project has emphasised the joy it is to be amongst sisters while learning from each other.

By Salome

