After 20 years, my regular work with Wontulp-Bi-Buya College is coming to an end this year. I scaled back to one day of support a week this year as the Principal, Rev. Victor Joseph, has settled in well to the role and the financial side is under stress. The College exists on minimal staff for the work it does and I have assisted mainly in the complexities of course accreditation and registration matters, and support to finance and teaching staff.

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College has come a long way since I took up the part-time role of Field Officer in 1990, based in Rockhampton. There was limited Church funding then and nothing from Government. Gradually support improved, I became full-time and we began holding short studies for Indigenous church leaders in conference centres around Queensland. The work surged ahead when we were able to access Government support for student travel and accommodation in 19... The majority of students were based in the northern regions of Queensland and in 1998 the administration base moved from Rockhampton to Cairns to reduce the travel load and I was appointed Principal in that year. The College Office remained located at my home until we were able to relocate it to Tropicana Lodge in Cairns and we began using their motel/conference facilities as our study centre. The administration office is now housed in the nearby Lutheran Church centre.

The focus of the training of the College has always been to develop leadership skills in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The foundation of this has been in theological studies for church leaders at Certificate III and Diploma levels complemented by studies in community development. This approach with its positive sensitivity to cultural values, has been successful in fostering both personal development and leadership skills in family, church and community life.

The courses are being further refined this year to three levels of theology and ministry: Certificates III and IV and Diploma, and two levels in addictions counselling and community development. The all-Indigenous teaching staff are well committed and qualified for their task. Ideally, there should be another support person to assist in maintaining quality teaching materials and registration standards but this is not possible currently. The lean and mean infrastructure has helped to keep costs to a minimum but the College faces a substantial shortfall in funding this year. Your ongoing prayers and support are much appreciated. Blessings to all in your particular life ministry.

Rev. David Thompson
Assistant to the Principal

2010 Graduates

Jessie Sexton
Belinda Neal
Gladys Sailor
Ettie Mosby
June Noble
Enita Kris & Dellis Cummings
Simon Ledie & Lucy Luke

Betty Kess
Devina Wilson
Janice Noble
Samson Leka & Daley Lakes
Dorita Wilson
Rachiel Surha
Jason Watcher
Betty Gibson

WONTULP-BI-BUYA COLLEGE Inc. Qld partner of Nungalinya College, Darwin, providing education programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church and community leaders in Queensland. Supported by the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Churches. Wontulp-Bi-Buya means faith and light. PO Box 960N, North Cairns Qld 4870. Office: 472 Severin St, Manunda 4870. Phone: 07 4041 4596. Fax: 07 4041 4597. Web site: www.wontulp.qld.edu.au
Principal's Report

Good Day to all our readers, family and friends.

Firstly, my acknowledgement to Almighty God and to all traditional owners of this land.

2010 has been a true blessing for Wontulp-Bi-Buya College; That despite some challenges along the way “we’re still here” doing what we love and that is providing quality training to our Indigenous people.

Our staff has gone through some changes in professional development with new standards in training and being part of accreditation of new courses for 2011 (more on that later). Staff turnover was also a challenge for us as well with Ms Daniella Crowe leaving us mid-year and acquiring Ms Davena Monro later in the year to fill the vacant position. Our training was also disrupted by one of our trainer’s going on sick leave for a few months but I can say that I am looking forward to working with all our staff for 2011.

I want to thank all our staff both past and present for their valuable contribution for 2010.

The College new Strategic Plan for 2011 – 2015 is now available and will also be on the website soon. It has taken a good twelve months with regular discussions at the Management Committee level and on behalf of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College I wish to thank Brolga Consultancy especially Mrs Leanne Ramsamy for her work on bringing this plan together.

I mentioned previously about the accreditation of our courses; in particularly our Theology courses. With the expiration of the Diploma of Theology course at the end of 2010; it was necessary to develop a Cert IV in Theology and Ministry and a Diploma of Theology and Ministry. Wontulp-Bi-Buya College wish to thank Nungalinya College for their participation in the course Committee and also to Rev Barry Paterson and Rev David Thompson for the course material preparation.

Further work was done to our Cert III in Community Organising and Development course due to some of the same units delivered in our Cert III in Alcohol and Other Addictions. So, a decision was made to merge the two courses together and through the accreditation process we will be now delivering soon in 2011 a Cert III in Addictions Management and Community Development.

When the College receives a final approval through our State Training authority we can begin delivering the following courses in 2011:

- Cert III in Theology and Ministry
- Cert IV in Theology and Ministry
- Diploma of Theology and Ministry
- Cert III in Addictions Management and Community Development
- Cert IV in Alcohol and other Addictions Counselling

Please check our website for any further updates. “www.wontulp”.

Our college had 91 enrolments for 2010 and we anticipate a higher number of enrolments for 2011 with the introduction of the new courses. A good number of students graduated from our courses and this is explained more in the Trainers reports in this newsletter.

Wherever I go I always find the time to mention about the support we receive and this maybe through prayer or financial sponsorship or donors that goes a long way in the ongoing business of the College. Our Partner Churches have always supported us from day one and we are so grateful for their ongoing assistance. Organisations such as ABM, Mothers Union Australia; TEAR Australia and Indigenous VET Initiatives, Dept of Education & Training are also our major contributors to the training of our students. Wontulp-Bi-Buya College look forward to working with them again in 2011.

Govt funding is also a major funding assistance to our students when they come to study at the College. What does however stands out for me the most is the contribution of schools, churches and the ordinary people who have a desire for the training of our Indigenous people and I want to acknowledge a few here now for our readers:

- The Bible Society on behalf of The Covenant Christian School NSW
- New England Girl’s School
- Old Girl’s Missionary Union
- World Day of Prayer (Qld Committee)
- Mossman/Port Douglas Anglican Parish
- A Iverson
- R Redpath
- Kenko Demolition
- M Thompson
- B Henson

This is just a few, and I wish to thank them and all our Donors for their contribution to our College for 2010.

Well, with the College closing for the Christmas break; our staff will be having a well-earned break that they truly deserve and be refreshed in the Spirit for 2011.

I want to wish everyone a very peaceful and blessed Christmas and may 2011 bring forth good fruits for us all who labour in the vineyard of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s Blessing to all

Rev Victor Joseph PRINCIPAL

St Pauls Island Cultural Dancers - 2010 Diploma

Diploma students & Teacher - Shared the Cry of the Rainforest
My name is Eddie Turpin, my wife's name is Adele and we have 7 children and 3 grandchildren. I was born in Atherton Nth Qld in 1956. I have lived and worked in various community throughout Australia, Western Australia; Victoria; Northern Territory and Queensland. In this time I have been involved in many Leadership roles with youth and mens groups and issues. I am currently employed as a Teacher with Wontulp in Cert III in Community Organising Development in which I fully enjoy.

I am Evelyn Par-kin, married 30yrs to Alan. I have 4 adult children and 6 beautiful grandchildren. Including my working with Wontulp as a Theology Teacher, I am also a qualified civil marriage celebrant. I am now looking forward to the next busy year ahead, 2011. My work as a theology teacher with the students at Wontulp is an expression of my cultural identity and a deep passion for my love of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. The spiritual space where I am at the moment not only culminates my life but those who were and are still very dear to me and that is my very own family, my Mother and my Aunties.

Hi there! My name is Michael Connolly, Aboriginal, and I am North Queensland born and bred, and I am married to Deacon Valma Connolly and having been ordained in 1987 in Yarrabah, and I am a teacher/field officer for the College with a Bachelor of Theology degree (2001) from St John’s College, Morpeth, and Charles Sturt University, both places located from beautiful North Stradbroke Island & Fraser Island & Butchulla Women derived from Fraser Island & Hervey Bay. I am blessed to have 4 beautiful sons and 2 grandsons whom I love so dearly. I’ve been given the opportunity in working throughout Queensland in managerial and administrative roles, the high light has been making many lasting friendships along the way. I have recently relocated from beautiful North Stradbroke Island to Cairns to study and work with Wontulp in which I am finding very rewarding. I have dedicated my life to God and his walk and I thank him for placing me in so a great area of Queensland.

Hi my Name is Leslie Baird & my Position: Alcohol and Other Addictions Coordinator. Born: Broome West Australia I was part of a working group that helped establish the Gurriny Yealmucka Health Services, Yarrabah. I have a great interest in Community Development and Spiritual and personal healing, and I am also a Priest of the Anglican Church of Australia within the Diocese of North Queensland.

Hi I’m Victor Joseph And currently I am the Principal of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College. On this journey with me is my wife of 20years Tara and our 6 children + 3 grandchildren. I am finding very rewarding. I have studied for my Bachelor of Theology. Wontulp-Bi-Buya College have given me an opportunity to use my gifts to help our Indigenous people to be effective role models in their community.

Hi my name is Nola Graham; November 2008 was when I came to Wontulp-Bi-Buya College as an assistant to the Administrator. I attended Nungalinya College in 1997 and having experienced that environment of learning and growing and having so much support from Teachers and staff, that has been with me for a very long time. Coming to Wontulp has bought back to me all that Bible College does and continue to do to our spirit, fellowship and friendship with God and each other.

Greetings! My name is Valma Connolly (nee Baird) and I hail from Broome in the Kimberly’s, in Western Australia and I am Aboriginal and have lived with my husband, Fr Michael, in North Queensland for 25 years now. We have been married for 25 years and have five children and nine grandchildren. I am a deacon in the Anglican Church, having entered the diaconate in 2005 and along with my husband I attained through Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in 2005 that holds me in good stead for the voluntary teaching work I do with my husband in the College.

OLÀ! (Hello) My name is Patrick, I come form Ecuador in South America. I migrated to Australia back in 1970 and moved to Cairns in 1998. I have been working for Wontulp-Buya College as Accounts Manager since December 2008 and have been blessed to have wonderful people to work with. The Job is challenging but at the same time is the perfect place to grow and contribute for the benefit of teachers and students. I love my job and give all my energy and enthusiasm in order to make this organisation a model in Australia.

My name is Davena Monroe (nee Dawson) I am a Butchulla Women deriving from Fraser Island & Hervey Bay. I am blessed to have 4 beautiful sons and 2 grandsons whom I love so dearly. I’ve been given the opportunity in working throughout Queensland in managerial and administrative roles, the high light has been making many lasting friendships along the way. I have recently relocated from beautiful North Stradbroke Island to Cairns to study and work with Wontulp in which I am finding very rewarding. I have dedicated my life to God and his walk and I thank him for placing me in so a great area of Queensland.
My how time flies since first starting at Wontulp-Bi-Buya College as assistant to the tutor, than on to becoming a trainee teacher in 2009. This was a complete career change for myself as I had always undertook outdoors employment. What a turn around in my life with the complete change of life style as a teacher. Well as the saying goes “A change is as good as a holiday”. I don’t know if that was entirely true, it was no holiday here as I quickly needed to adapt into the college way of life as trainee/teacher.

As we kicked off the new year, Community Organising and Development students of 2009 had recommenced studies and in addition to our former students there was also new recruits for 2010. With the coming of another set of first year student in 2010 meant that I was juggling the two classes at the same time. But I fully believe when thrown into the deep end you learn to swim very quickly.

I found when preparing and delivering the booklets I had the opportunity to develop and learn more knowledge and skills, especially taking on this leadership role. I quickly learnt that teaching is not just dictating to the student and training them, I realise now that it is so important to learn about each individual student and their home environment and culture that they represent. I totally enjoyed each students individual personalities and with each of them being so different from one to another. It was a learning experience for me also and exciting to discover that I actually can do something that I once thought was an impossible dream and which was totally against my grain—teaching!!.

I have found over the past year college life and teaching very pleasurable, flexible, and very rewarding along with a great staff to work with. I fully enjoyed the block training with many opportunities of visiting various organisations and businesses that were relevant to the studies. Its very rewarding to observe the students and how they connected the theory and practical, the clincher being the opening of the Gurriny Yealamucka health Centre at Yarrabah which the COD students were monitoring over the last couple of years. So it was a steep learning curve and being stretch to the limits over the last year and a half.

2010 graduations was exciting and a real blessing, seeing the dedication and hard work from staff and students and how it had paid off. It was fantastic to see that 12 of my students had graduated with flying colours! And how proud I am of each of them. Now armed with a much more experience and a lot more faith I’m looking forward in tackling 2011.

Peace be with You All
Eddie Turpin

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Wishing Everone A Merry Christmas and May the True Peace of Jesus Christ be with You Throughout the New Year, 2011 – “We Have This Hope as an Anchor for Our Lives. It is Safe and Sure, and Goes Through the Curtain of the Heavenly Temple Into the Inner Sanctuary” Hebrews 6:19

Wishing Many Blessings
Evelyn Parkin