Future is Looking Good

Rev Les Baird & Bette Gibson

Throughout the years many good news story of our students and their work in the communities have encouraged people associated with Wontulp. We believe these stories should be shared to all our readers and hopefully generate blessing and encouragement for you also.

This year our Principal and Lecturers has chosen to high light a great story of a local community elder of Cairns who we believe is really achieving her God given purpose. This beautiful 63 years young Lady’s achievement has stood out and we thank her for allowing us to share a little of her life with you.

Aunty Bette Gibson who has traditional connection to the Gugu Yalanji & Gugu Nyungkal people have been very productive in the last 5 years in training and up skilling herself to become more effective in her community and our indigenous peoples lives. In the time spent in Wontulp, Aunty Bette has participated and successfully obtained her Cert III in Community Development; Cert III in Alcohol & Other Addictions; Cert IV in Alcohol & Other Addictions Counseling. Aunty Bette feels her drive and desires have been enhanced each time she has completed a course. As stated many opportunities have made their way into her life which she expressed much amazement and looking back into her past. Like all indigenous people of Australia being affected by the colonisation Aunty Bette was part the dormitory era, in which many of our old people were subjected to many negative experiences. However Aunty Bette believes her experiences have shaped her to whom she is today. With much understanding and empathy for her people this has only contributed and generated her skills and ability in becoming a good counselor.

Currently Aunty Bette is playing a part in ATOD’s; QUDIP as a community Elder, in which she takes her role very seriously. These roles give her an opportunity to assist with our people as an elder and a supporting person. Many times her involvement has given people the backing they need, which is vital to any persons restoration. Aunty Bette feels by showing people love and care will only generate positive behaviours which will go along way in their journey of healing. Aunty Bette sits on the bench with Judges in the Murri court and has done so for the past 4 – 5 years and with her recent completion of the Certificate IV in Alcohol & other Addictions Counseling was then directed to QUDIP, where this role as given her the opportunity to assists the counselor, which she is finding very rewarding. Aunty Bette is also active within various community positions such as Gumba Gumba Justice Group, who has been a great support through all aspects of her training and has generated opportunity to assist with Jail and farm visits connecting her to our mob. This has sparked much interest from organisations throughout the region and is looking promising for future full time employment for Aunty Bette. It is also through these connections that our students are creating and opening doors for other student coming through Wontulp. We at Wontulp send out our prayers for Aunty Bette to strengthen her in the betterment of indigenous peoples and wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

Wontulp’s First Water Baptism

With so many years in operation of Wontulp, one would think that the organization has seen everything, but as we have learnt in the past month that is not entirely true. John Troutman of Toowoomba who is a current student in our Certificate III in Alcohol Management and Community Development stated that he was given more then was he had bargained for. John’s journey started when leaving Wontulp after his first block knowing that he was truly missing something in his life. It was only after his second block that he knew what it was and decided that it was a true relationship with our Creator.

Staff and students were very unaware of what was birthing in his life, however were observing the transformation that was taking place in his life. When he finally got word out that he had taken the plunge and dedicated his life to God everyone was so happy and amazed. John came back to his block on fire for the Lord and wishing to share his new commitment with his cohorts but most importantly his new family in Christ. John decided to have his water baptism at Tropicana Lodge for all to see and be apart of. It was a very touching ceremony held for all to witness, this is one occasion that would truly be remembered.

On behalf of Wontulp staff and students, a big thanks going out to John for sharing such an important day with us all. God bless and pray you have many awesome years to come with our God and creator.

Blessings to all

Davena Monro

John Troutman & Ps Kerry Lampton
Firstly, my acknowledgement to the traditional owners of this land called Australia and to our Elders both past and present that have contributed to the life journey of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In my last newsletter report I talked briefly about the support Wontulp-Bi-Buya receives from our partner Churches and Donors/Sponsors. This reminded me of the importance of tithes and offerings that our Lord commanded to the people in his days and to us today. It was only recently I saw an article about a couple that was experiencing bad debts. After they enlisted some help from a friend at church to sort through their finances and make a budget they came to the conclusion that their priority in tithing wasn’t important, as it should be.

Well, they eventually began to tithe and more then they could have; slowly they saw changes firstly within themselves through prayer and reading God’s word daily (like all good Christians) and their debts were paid off. Cheques started coming in from out of nowhere and their savings account began to grow as they grew in their faith with God.

This is one of thousands of stories of God’s blessings in the lives of ordinary people faithful in their tithing. The Donors and Sponsors of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College range from large Christian based organisations, churches and schools to families selling ice blocks or a Pensioner donating through their bequests. Whether its $100 or $10 the faith in the Donor gives Wontulp-Bi-Buya College renewed hope of its purpose amidst this chaotic world.

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College have been fulfilling the words of Christ in sending labourers into the harvest fields for many years; some of them have gone on to be with the Lord after their labouring while many others continue to plough on. You won’t see them on the big time Christian TV channels like some of the international evangelists but they’re out there doing the same work that our Lord Jesus has commanded. Their labouring is the fruits of the tithing that each Sponsor/Donor has planted at Wontulp-Bi-Buya and all we do is provide the nourishments and God does the rest (does this sound like a familiar biblical passage to you!).

The front-page story of Aunty Bette is one those success stories of our students and it is life changing when they study at Wontulp-Bi-Buya; just ask John Troutman! As our College expands its area of study there is no doubt the opposing forces is at work like that lion Jesus was describing Satan doing anything possible to stop this momentum. But the growth of the College cannot happen without being business minded and strategic planning as the saying goes” if you fail to plan then you plan to fail”.

We’re heading towards our students graduations and more labourers heading out into the harvest (an exciting few months ahead of us) and Wontulp-Bi-Buya College will be here for many years to come with ongoing support from our Sponsors and Donors. If you know of anyone who is looking at giving to God in their tithing why don’t you tell them who is looking at giving to God in their salvation?”

With Peace and Blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ

Reverend Victor Joseph

PRINCIPAL

Theology & Ministry

In 2011 the Theology courses has undergone much change and transformation, which has affected our Diploma students immensely. Due to the size in the Diploma course package, it was decided by the management committee that a logical approach would be to split the studies into 2 courses. In the year 2010 Wontulp Management Team made application to divide the Diploma into 2 course packages to create and implement a Certificate IV in Theology & Ministry to our registered courses. Like everything in life when there is newness and change there is much work, however this is been beneficial to the growth of Wontulp and our vision to become more equip and effectived to do our Lord’s work.

Students were taken through an academic process and with much consideration were designated into their new course, each student took it in their stride and have adapted to the change well. It was through this procedure that we had the opportunity to observe the maturity in our students walks and how the course has shaped them to walk in God ‘s chosen path, as many times our Lord requires his children to step in faith and step out of our comfort zones to develop perseverance.

There was also a sad change that has affected all of Wontulp, after 4 years of service we were saddened to see one of our staff members leave our Wontulp family. Evelyn Parkin a Noonukul woman of Nth Stradbroke Island came to Wontulp as a Theology Lecturer after completing her Certificate III & Diploma in Theology studies. Evelyn played a major part in the Theology section as the Coordinator, Through her ministry at Wontulp Evelyn has touch many people’s lives and she will be sadly missed. On behalf of all the Wontulp Staff & Students we send our prayers to Evelyn and her family and ask our Father to watch over their futures and where the Lord directs her to next.

Evelyn Parkin & Patsy Murray
I am very shy. WBB helped me
dents report things like; It is an absolute blast to hear the stu-
the course.
was a constantly evident outcome of
Personal development and growth
students in the reality of their own
and see their projects at Sesia, Thurs-
day Island, Horn Island, Moa Island,
and visit the students
itor, especially to visit the students
their minds to different people in
excite the students in expanding
dda and Mossman, which proved to
students in expanding their minds to different people in
different places.
I was thrilled to go on a two-week trip with Ann Stephens, our evalu-
ator, especially to visit the students and see their projects at Sesia, Thurs-
day Island, Horn Island, Moa Island, Cooktown, Shiptons Flats, Home
Rule and Wujal Wujal Communities. We aimed to allow students to reflect
on their own life journey and ground students in the reality of their own
experience and build from there. Personal development and growth
was a constantly evident outcome of
the course.
It is an absolute blast to hear the stu-
dents report things like;
"I am very shy. WBB helped me
not feel shame. When I completed
my course I was the quiet one. I’ve
gained confidence." [was accepted
and completed a Youth Leader-
ship course in Canberra].
"COD bring soothing and healing.
Open up more so I can relate to
someone who has been through the
same trauma."
"I became the full time employment
coordinator."
"I am an assistant medical reception-
ist and I am aiming to go higher. The
course has helped me so much in my
job. My boss sees my potential to go
growth pains and overcoming
difficulties and set backs as any or-
organizations go through, but the rest
of this year will bring triumph and
victory for the students and the staff
here at wontulp.

God bless
In his service
Eddie Turpin

Alcohol & Other Addictions
By the time you get this newsletter I
will have been working at Wontulp-Bi-
Buya College for the last six years, I (Fr
Les) started in September 2005, when
Fr Michael Connolly (previous College
principal) and Fr David (previous
academic co-ordinator for Wontulp-Bi-
Buya College) ask me to come on board
and work with them to prepare for the
delivery of Certificate III in Community
Organising and development and by
the beginning of 2006, Wontulp-Bi-Buya
College was ready for the delivery of
the course.
Our first course in 2006, we had 10 students
who graduated with Certificate III in
Community Organising and development
in 2007. (See photo below);
The 2008 graduates

One student comment after one of
the residential blocks in Cairns 2008; -
"This block has been very challenging
supporting young people. To make me
think deeply about their needs and to
look at myself as an older person to
consider and make decisions how to
work effectively with them. The DVD’s
gave me more insight and understanding
to take notice and learn from them to
help them to be strong people. The visit
to Yarrabah Community Health Centre
was very impressive to listen and learn
from young men how they can work in
their community organization to make
difference in the social area of their
community. I want to thank Fr Les
for taking us through this educational
journey of how to look at community
development."
My reflection of the six years of work at
Wontulp-Bi-Buya College – I have
enjoyed my work at the college, especially as I see the importance of
Empowerment that is now beginning to
make an impact as students are working
to put their learning into practice in their
communities.
The evaluation report for TEAR Australia
will have student testimonies of the
work they are involved with in their
own community. As I read the first draft
of the report, I thought about drops of
water falling into a still water pond
sending out rippling effects and this
reminded me of the training course
where the water droplets are the students
going back into their community after
training at Wontulp-Bi-Buya College
and established projects in their own
community e.g., St Paul community
gardens and Home Rule Training centre
at Wujal Wujal.
This is what Empowerment is all about.
I would like to thank the Lord for giving
me the gifts of teaching and training
Indigenous people and being able
to empower them to do good works
for themselves and other community
members.
I have been unwell for almost one
year in 2010, living with depression,
however thanks for all your prayers I
am on the road to being healed by the
Lord Jesus and I am looking forward
to a good year for 2012. May God’s
blessing be upon you all.

Kind Regards
Rev Les Baird.
Name:________________________________________
Address:____________________________________________________Post Code___________
Ph:(___)_______________Mob:____________________ Email:__________________________

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$50    $150         $100        or $__________
Payment by:    Cheque        Visa         Mastercard       Cash

Epiry Date:   /                Signature:_____________
To be paid:       Monthly      Quarterly     Half Yearly     Once

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Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Po Box 690N, North Cairns
QLD  4870

Credit Card donations may also be made by call 1800 065 607

Please find enclosed my gift of:
☐ $50  ☐ $150  ☐ $100  ☐ or $__________

Payment by:    Cheque        Visa         Mastercard       Cash

Epiry Date:   /                Signature:_____________
To be paid:       Monthly      Quarterly     Half Yearly     Once

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Please send me _____ copies of Dhubbi Mischievous Adventure at $23.00 posted.

Credit card donations may also be made by calling 1800 065 607 in Qld or (07) 4041 4596.

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Forward gifts to:  Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, PO Box 960N, North Cairns Qld 4870
Please advise change of address. Enclose mailing label if possible.