

# CAPE YORK

A Cape York Welfare Reform initiative

# NEWS

APRIL 2014

AURUKUN

COEN

HOPE VALE

MOSSMAN GORGE



## Welcome

Welcome to the April edition of the Cape York News. Inside you will find information to keep you up to date with what's happening in Cape York Welfare Reform communities.

Thanks to all our contributors. Please contact us at the Program Office on 4046 0600 or email [info@cyi.org.au](mailto:info@cyi.org.au), if you would like to share your Welfare Reform news.

## Coen Attendance Awards



*Craig Jordan, Principal - Coen Campus*

In week 7 of Term 1, the school hosted a half-term Attendance Awards Ceremony to recognise our top school attenders. I was ecstatic to see that almost all of the school received either a Gold (for no absences) or Silver (for no unexplained absences) certificate. In fact, we had 27 Gold and 14 Silver!

Congratulations to all certificate winners. Importantly, thanks to all parents and carers for your commitment in maximising your child's educational opportunities by having them at school, all day, every day. To those parents requiring support in achieving this, please seek out family members who are able to help and speak with the school, CYP and the WellBeing Centre to see what we can do to support you.



AURUKUN COEN HOPE VALE MOSSMAN GORGE

A partnership between the Australian Government, Queensland Government, Cape York Institute and regional organisations

# Hope Vale community supports World's Greatest Shave

Brave staff at Hope Vale Opportunity Hub raised \$1105.00 for the Leukaemia Foundations World's Greatest Shave on Friday 14 March. Audrey Deemal, Lenore Casey and Jo Reid shaved their heads to raise much needed funds for research, treatment and support of Leukaemia.

Thank you to everyone who donated money and for those who shaved and sprayed their hair in support.



## Djarragun College News

*Robyn Hughes, Relieving Principal*

Djarragun College has had a great start to the 2014 academic year with so many students arriving each day willing and eager to learn. They are receiving the support they need from their families who are ensuring that their children are given every opportunity to be successful in every area of their lives. Learning is about opportunity, and Djarragun is full of opportunities.

The Primary school has a rich learning

program centred on Direct Instruction, and the senior students are studying a new curriculum which was developed in consultation with last year's Year 10 and 11 students.

The Boarding students have all settled in well and have enjoyed numerous activities during the first term. Some of the activities offered are curtain sewing, gardening, ethnic cooking, cultural dancing, celebrating birthdays and pool competitions. Excursions are always

popular as they involve going to places like Lake Eachem, Palm Cove, the Esplanade, and 10 pin bowling to mention just a few. Occasionally there are 'surprise' destinations so that only the drivers and supervising staff know where they are all going!

Term One at Djarragun has been an exciting time and we are all looking forward to enjoying an even greater term two!



# Best Garden in the Village

★ AWARDS ★

## Pride of Place

Congratulation to the Best Garden in the Village winners and runners up

Cape York communities celebrated their Pride of Place achievements at the annual Best Garden in the Village competition. Winners received great prizes including outdoor settings, BBQs and gardening packages.



**Aurukun:** Maureen Karyuka with judges Wendy Francis, Mayor Derek Walpo and Wally Zieqelbauer



**Coen:** Nikisha Missionary & Jimmy Bero



**Hope Vale:** Doreen Pearson



**Mossman Gorge:** Debbie Bamboo and Jack Temple

## Cape York Employment

### *Aurukun job seekers start four week pre-employment stockman training*

Six budding job-seekers from Aurukun commenced a four week pre-employment training program on Queensland cattle stations. The program designed and funded through ILC, in partnership with APN and MEGT, will offer participants who successfully complete the course a 12 month traineeship as a Stockman and obtain a Certificate II in Agriculture.

Cape York Employment assisted the Aurukun jobseekers with recruitment, pre-screening interviews as well as travel and accommodation to attend the program.

The selected stockman left Aurukun on Sunday 6 March to begin the ILC pre-employment Stockman program. We wish them all the best during the training program.





## Coen SET fair

Coen families made the most of the Coen SET fair held on Tuesday 4 March. Around 30 families spent a combined amount of over \$2000.00 on educational items for their children. Parents also purchased school uniforms, hats and shoes.

All Cape York Partnerships staff attended and took the opportunity to talk to parents about the other services available to them including Home Pride, Parenting Program - It Takes a Village to Raise a Child, MPower and Pride of Place.



Michelle Claudie set to purchase items for her grandchildren at the Coen SET fair.

## 'I'm learning to do my own banking'

Brian Toby has been developing his money management skills for many years, first with Financial Income Management (FIM) and now as an MPower member.

'I joined MPower when it changed over from FIM because I liked having a budget and paying my bills regularly without having to do it in person.'

Brian has used his money wisely over the last few years, purchasing a fridge, chest freezer, washing machine, dryer, television, stereo and laptop through Wise Buys. By managing his bills and already having everything he needs for his home, Brian is

able to buy the things he wants.

'I am in credit on all my household bills, including rent, Foxtel and Telstra which means I've got more money to buy things for myself and my grandkids.'

With MPower support and easy access to iBank at the Mossman Gorge Opportunity Hub, Brian is steadily increasing his internet and telephone banking skills.

'I am now able to log on to the computer and transfer funds myself. Next I want to learn how to set up my bill payments - I am going to keep logging into my internet banking to get more confidence.'

## 'BOB is my greatest achievement'

Tim McGreen could not be prouder of his accomplishments with Bush Owner Builder (BOB).

'BOB is my greatest achievement - I will own my own bush house, on my own block!'

The family has banded together to complete MPower Coaching, save the deposit, and has been dedicated to contributing sweat equity. Tim and his family spent time together clearing the block, digging footing holes, putting in floor

joists, wall framing, cladding and decking. Now all their work has paid off - Tim and wife Elaine moved into their BOB home in December!

'I joined BOB because I wanted to own my own home on my traditional lands. Now we won't be paying rent anymore. I can also start working on my block.'

They will continue to work with an MPower Consultant over the coming years to keep their loan repayments on track.



## 'I've made the right choice'

With a Student Education Trust (SET), Haylene Agie knows it will be easier to budget. 'I've joined up to SET so I know that I have money set aside for my daughter Ashanda's education.'

Haylene signed up to MPower last year: 'I wanted to improve my budgeting skills.' As part of managing her money, Haylene identified that she can fit SET contributions into her budget and also improve her ability to meet her daughter's educational needs: 'I have a good feeling about my choice to join SET.'

Haylene has also taken her interest in MPower one step further - she joined the Aurukun MPower team as a Graduate in December. Haylene is very proud of her achievements: 'I'm fulfilling my goal by getting full-time employment with MPower. I'm excited for more training to improve my skills so that I can have a long-term career here. People in the community are pleased to see young Indigenous people working in the Hub.'





## ***'I buy things that I need'***

With a long history of Wise Buys purchases, Victor Lawrence knew exactly what to do when he needed new things for his unfurnished unit: 'I came into the Coen Opportunity Hub for Wise Buys because I moved into the old people's home and I needed some furniture.'

Victor has purchased a lounge suite, curtains and a stereo for his new home. 'I will think about other important things I need and I will buy them after the wet season.'

Mpower and Wise Buys have taught Victor to make smart financial decisions and to be a savvy shopper. 'Wise Buys is good because it has taught me to buy good things for my home. I'm spending my money wisely and not wasting it on things I don't need. I am showing my family what they can buy too!'

Since signing up to Mpower over two years ago, Victor has also saved for and purchased a fridge, bed frame and mattress, washing machine, freezer, television, and sander for making artefacts.



## ***'My garden gives me great satisfaction'***

Debbie Bamboo and her family are thoroughly enjoying their new garden.

The whole family rolled-up their sleeves with sweat equity over the last few months to finish their Backyard Blitz. 'Now I have a great garden that my family and I can really appreciate! I have more enthusiasm to do gardening and it has motivated me to take on a healthier lifestyle.'

With increased pride in her home, Debbie is keen to continue working on her garden.

'I want to put one more garden bed at the front of the house and put more plants in the backyard.'

'Everyone loves the garden that we've designed. I think it'll inspire others to do up their gardens too.'



## ***'It's easy to do up your home'***

Kiara Woibo is excited to create a more comfortable home with It takes a village to raise a child's Home Pride.

'I signed up to Home Pride because [I want] to do up my home - I want to paint, redecorate and purchase new furniture for my living room.'

Kiara is at the beginning of her Home Pride journey. She attended a cooking workshop held at the Parenting Hub and is using the meal plan and shopping list tools she received during the Home Crew House Visits.

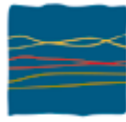
Kiara, who lives with her son, is eager to start getting her home ready for her House Blitz. 'I'm going to clean up the house so I can start painting and redecorating.'

To create a more comfortable living area for her and her son, Kiara plans to buy a lounge, coffee table, entertainment unit, and new dining setting so they can enjoy more family time together.

'When I tell people about what I'm doing with Home Pride they say that they want to do it too!'

'Home Pride is great because it helps me to make my house look nice! I'm getting new things for my home and making it more comfortable.' Once she's finished work on her living room, Kiara plans to redecorate the bedrooms as well.

Kiara is also an active Mpower member, Wise Buys members, and is the primary donor to her son's Student Education Trust.



## Annual Leadership Camp

The Cape York Leaders Program held its annual Leadership Camp at Currimundi Recreational Centre on the Sunshine Coast over Australia Day weekend in January. This year's camp hosted 68 Academic Leaders Secondary students and eight staff and Tertiary program supervisors.

Students took part in team building activities including body boarding, catapults, giant swing, alpine rescue, paddle boarding, beach games, circus skills and fishing.

Noel Pearson attended a leader's workshop and participated in activities with the students over the weekend. Students showed their leadership skills by stepping up to talk about their journey on the program and Noel shared stories from his boarding school days.

The Leadership Camp is an important experience for all students to prepare for the school year and is a great opportunity for new students to meet and build relationships with other students attending the same schools. The Camp builds skills and confidence to help all students' transition into boarding school.



## Aurukun Clean Up Australia Day

Aurukun community took part in Clean Up Australia Day on 16 March. A good crowd of 30 people attended collecting approx. 2 tonnes of rubbish from around the township area. All enjoyed the sausage sizzle and cold water on the day.

Aurukun Council are committed to reducing rubbish left in the streets and public areas. We hope all residents will do the right thing in the future. Special thanks to Linda Sivyver who once again coordinated this community event.



# Empowering change in Cape York

*"My vision is to see my people grasping with both hands the opportunities that are being presented today for young and old, opportunities for better education, health, social reform, business and self-growth."*

*Doreen Hart, Empowered Communities Cape York Regional Coordinator*

Doreen Hart is passionate about making a better lifestyle for families in her community of Hope Vale. For the past 20 years she has encouraged her own family and other family groups to make the most of local opportunities and make positive changes.

One of these opportunities is the new Empowered Communities, a collaboration of eight regions across Australia working to transform Indigenous Affairs and the way that Indigenous people manage interactions with governments.

Doreen is the Cape York Regional Coordinator for Empowered Communities and views this new challenge as another opportunity for Indigenous families to stand up and make a change for their future and their grandchildren's future.

"This is the next and very important stage in solving the problem of social and economic disadvantage. It presents an opportunity for individuals and families to step up, take responsibility and be empowered to lead their own change."

"I am in the process of engaging with communities in Cape York, we are starting with the Councils so they understand the benefits and what it could mean for their communities."

Doreen is a Cape York Indigenous woman of the Binthi/ Bulgun clan of the Guughu Yimithirr nation of the Hope Vale area.

"I have always been involved in programs run in Cape York. I was CEO of Apunipima Health Council from 2000 to 2004. This is when I really started to take an interest in the issues affecting Cape York. I have been involved in the Family Responsibilities Commission since the beginning and five years on I am still a Local Commissioner of Hope Vale. I was also the Local Program Coordinator for Cape York Welfare Reform."

Doreen has taken part in many initiatives offered in her community. Doreen joined the Cape York Leaders Program to further develop her skills and confidence as a leader. She also signed up to the Bush Owner Builder project.

"I am a mother of four and grandmother of 11, our family took up the challenge to build our own home through Bush Owner Builder.

"The project took 18 months of pure dedication and hard work every weekend and holidays. It is now a very well used home for my family. We love it and it's ours."

"I especially want to see young mothers broaden their minds to the things they can do when their children are in school. There are many opportunities locally to help young women make a better life for themselves and their families.

Doreen has recently returned from working in the Kimberly region with The Wunan Foundation.

"I wanted to explore other avenues and I have always been interested in the Kimberly area. I worked closely with communities on the Living Change project, talking to people about opportunities and encouraging self-responsibility.

Doreen will be visiting Cape York communities in the coming months to talk with individuals, families and organisations about Empowered Communities.



## Getting SET for school at CYAAA Aurukun Campus

It has been a great start to the year at Aurukun Campus with many families taking advantage of their savings through Student Education Trust (SET) to ensure their kids are set with school uniforms. The students are excited to wear them every day and there have been many times where the whole class is in uniform.

Teachers are rewarding students in uniform and noticing how much it improves their attitude towards learning and being ready for school.

SET helps families to prepare their children for school.

Our target is for all students to be dressed in uniform five days a week. If the group in the photo is a sign for the future of Aurukun, it is certainly a bright blue one! Well done – every child, every day at school in uniform!



## CYAAA Coen Student Leaders

Congratulations to our newest Coen Campus student leader representatives:

**School Captain:** Keishia Pratt

**School Vice-Captain:** Dylan Kepple

**Student Council President:** Karla Zaro

**Emu Sports House Captain:**  
Bernard Charlie

**Cassowary Sports House Captain:**  
Emma Kulla Kulla

These students nominated and have been elected by the students and teachers of Coen Campus because of their 'Get ready. Work hard. Be good' attitude. We hope and expect our student leaders will one day grow into leaders of high schools, leaders of their professions and leaders of the Coen community. Until then, they will be great role models to all Coen Campus students.

Thank you to the many elders that came for the ceremony and morning tea to recognise our young leaders. It is through your leadership as a family elder, that we see our new young leaders stand as role models in our school today.

## Mossman Gorge after school homework class

Twice a week the Mossman Gorge kids fill the Wellbeing Centre with laughter and general chatter as they work with tutor Nadia Sinkovich from the Mossman Primary School.

The Wellbeing Centre staff help out with the class, with Amy Franchi assisting with the class on Tuesday afternoons and Ellie Starkey helping out on Thursdays.

Nadia Sinkovich and the Wellbeing Centre helper collect all the children from the bus stop after school at 3.15pm, children then walk up to the Wellbeing Centre excited and ready to learn.

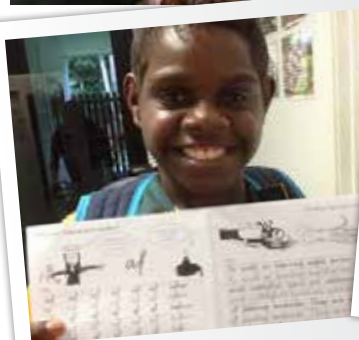
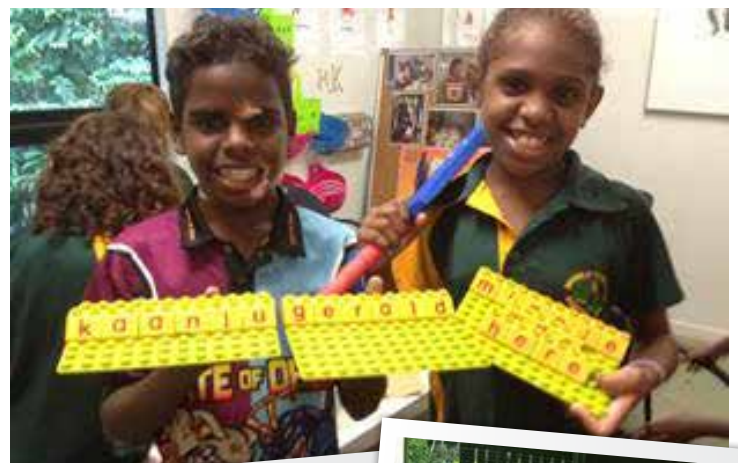
The children start the class with a cold drink, and then place a sticker on the attendance board.

So far there have been a few children that have attended 100 per cent of homework classes for 2014. Every week there is a special award presented to one child who is observed as being respectful and a learner. Miss Nadia will then direct the learning for the session, including assisting children to complete homework and running fun educational activities.

The children really do enjoy the classes and their laughter can be heard throughout the whole building for that hour. We have been impressed to see that the older children have taken on leadership roles within the group, assisting the younger children to learn and also presenting the learning awards to others.

The children end the class with two big bowls of fresh fruit, which is always finished in minutes!

It has been great to see the children eager to learn and committed to their education.



# Recognise Relay On Its Way

The Recognise relay – an epic journey across the nation by constitutional recognition campaigners – is preparing to make its way to Cape York and the Torres Strait in June.

Locals will be invited to join the relay at a series of events across the cape that month – and to walk, drive and even ride with it.

One event will involve a walk from Black Mountain to Cooktown, giving people the chance to show their support for a recognition referendum and urge others to get involved too.

The Journey to Recognition has already travelled almost 16,700 kilometres across Australia, building supporter numbers along the way as the grassroots recognition movement grows.

Almost 180,000 Australians are now supporters of the movement to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution and to remove race discrimination from it.

The relay has been in the south-west of Western Australia over the past month, including a huge turnout of more than 300 locals in Fremantle at an event led by Whadjuk Noongar elders.

As it stops in tiny towns and big regional centres, the relay offers locals a chance to

speaking up about why constitutional recognition and the removal of race discrimination matter to them.

On its epic journey, a wide array of people – Elders and young people, parents and mayors, community leaders and everyday Australians of every background – have pledged their support to help build the wide public support needed for a referendum.

Recognise Deputy Campaign Director Tanya Hosch said engaging with Far North Queensland and Torres Strait Islander communities was a priority and a privilege for the recognition movement.

“We have seen great leadership from the Cape, including from the Cape York Institute and Balkanu, who are helping raise community support and awareness for constitutional recognition.”

“We have met with communities across Victoria, South Australia, the Northern Territory and WA. We can’t wait to take the recognition movement to the far north east of the country.”

Harold Ludwick, a Traditional Owner from the Bulgen Warra group west of Cooktown, said the arrival of the recognition campaigners would present a fantastic opportunity to inform local communities about constitutional reform.

“In the most important document of Australia, the First Australians were denied recognition – but now in the 21st century we are rallying support for the inclusion of Indigenous people in the Constitution.”

“This upcoming referendum is crucial to the Indigenous people of Australia and we look forward to welcoming the Recognise mob onto our country.

Torres Strait Regional Authority member Kenny Bedford also tipped a warm Torres Strait Islander welcome for the movement in coming months.

“The Torres Strait Islands have produced some of our greatest leaders in the quest for equality and recognition. We look very forward to welcoming the Journey to Recognition to our homelands and this chance for our people to be recognised in our nation’s Constitution.”

The Journey to Recognition will travel from Cairns to the Northern Peninsula Area, visiting as many communities as possible before heading to the Torres Strait. Large events will be held in Cairns, Cooktown and Bamaga, to name a few.

To get more information on local events as they are confirmed and for updates on the national movement, sign up at [www.recognise.org.au](http://www.recognise.org.au)



# The Guugu Yimidhirr language revival project

*Biiba nganhdhanun, dyiiriwi nhundu nhin-gaalnggal.*

*Gadil gurra guugu nhanumungu ngandhaan magu-badaaygu yiniildhirr-manaaya.*

*Bama warrga nobuungu guugu nhanu binalingu maandinhu, gurra bubuwi galmba milgadhirr nhin-ganhu, Yimidhirr anggali dyiiriwi nhanu milgadhirr budhun-gu nhin-gaalnggal.*

*Mayi nhila budhanhu nhunduugu nganhdhanun nhila wuwaa.*

*Nganhdhaan warra nhin-gaayga: nhayun nhundu milga-ngandaaya.*

*Bama nganhdhanun guli-madhiiga; nganhdhaan galmba dhiliinh dhawuundhirr-manaadhinhu.*

*Sataan-ga gurra bamaangu nhunduugu nganhdhanun burrburr-gurrala warraangu gima wudhaadhigamu.*

*Warraangan nganhdhanun dhaarrngala budhu nhunduugu burrburr budhunda.*

*Nhayun manu-budhun-gu.*

The Lord's Prayer in Guugu Yimidhirr

At the Good to Great Schools Gathering earlier this year, Noel Pearson described his vision of a future in which the Aboriginal Australian peoples of Cape York Peninsula are able to prosper as peoples, with full access to the benefits of both worlds, well educated and confident in the wider national and international spheres and strong in their own cultures.

***“A future in which the Wik Mungkan people and the Guugu Yimidhirr people can live long and prosper on this earth as Wik Mungkan people and as Guugu Yimidhirr people.”*** Noel Pearson, Good to Great Schools Gathering

Though few have heard its name, the Guugu Yimidhirr language has given Australian English one of our best known words. The word ‘Kangaroo’ comes from gangurru, the Guugu Yimidhirr name for a species of black wallaby. The word Gangurru was also one of the first Aboriginal Australian words to be written in the Roman alphabet by an Englishman, Captain James Cook, who recorded a short wordlist during his stop for repairs on the banks of the Endeavour River. But today, after thousands of years of songs and stories and conversations, not many young parents are able to speak Guugu Yimidhirr with their children.

Over the past few years we (Jan Goetesson and myself) have been working with the Hope Vale community to develop, promote, and expand the use of the Guugu Yimidhirr language. The goal of the Guugu Yimidhirr language revival project is to assist and support the Guugu Yimidhirr people to become champions of their ancestral language so that their children and grandchildren may indeed live long and prosper on this earth as a people with a vibrant living culture.

An important part of The Guugu Yimidhirr language revival project is a language course for Hope Vale Primary School. Yirrgii Guugu-Yimidhirrbi, meaning ‘speak Guugu Yimidhirr’, is a scripted course inspired by Englemann’s Direct Instruction Spoken English course. Yirrgii Guugu Yimidhirrbi is taught at Hope Vale Primary school by Lillian Bowen, a talented and dedicated teacher and herself a strong Guugu Yimidhirr speaker.

***“When I was growing up my language Guugu Yimidhirr was spoken in our home and my dad was an outspoken Guugu yimidhirr person. Often he would sit down with me at night and we would sing Guugu Yimidhirr hymns from the original book written by Muni, the missionary Schwarz. This was when I was 7 or eight years of age.***

***Teaching Guugu Yimidhirr is something I am passionate about and I am happy that now our language is being supported by the Institute.”*** Lillian Bowen



CYAAA Hope Vale Language teacher, Lillian Bowen

Lillian’s students love their Guugu Yimidhirr classes and they are progressing quickly, impressing their parents with their growing mastery of their ancestral language.

***“I receive many strong words of support from community members and parents. People light up when the children bring their language home.***

***Our language is a big part of our identity. Teaching Guugu Yimidhirr at Hopevale school and supporting the revival of our language is sending out a strong positive message. Students and their parents are gaining pride in their heritage.”*** Lillian Bowen

Latin, the most famous ‘dead’ language, has a thriving literature, but because Guugu Yimidhirr has no written literature, if one day the language falls silent an entire universe will be lost forever. To ensure the future of Guugu Yimidhirr it is important for Guugu Yimidhirr speakers to also become confident and prolific writers of their language. 2013 was the first year Hope Vale School had a full year’s course of lessons in spoken Guugu Yimidhirr. While work continues on new lesson scripts in 2014, this year Lillian Bowen will also begin teaching her students how to write their language. The first written Guugu Yimidhirr lesson scripts Nganhdhaan Gaban-balgala Guugu Yimidhirrbi (We will write in Guugu Yimidhirr) and the first Guugu Yimidhirr workbook, Gaban-balgala Guugu Yimidhirrbi (Write Guugu Yimidhirr) will be printed this month. Lillian is excited that she will soon be able to set homework for her students.

***“It is important for the students to learn to write Guugu Yimidhirr. It will also be good for them to take their work home for their parents and families to see what they are doing at school and to become involved. This will be very helpful for the children’s language learning.***

***Of course, all teachers know that learning languages when they are young is important for the development of children’s brains. This is important for our children and for our children’s children and for all Guugu Yimidhirr children of the future. To grow up speaking and writing our ancestral language is the right of every child.”*** Lillian Bowen

And while Lillian Bowen teaches Guugu Yimidhirr in the school, Irene Hammett, a Hope Vale grandmother, has begun to write stories and poems for the children. The first of her books in Guugu Yimidhirr, Dharnggan, an autobiographical story about a strong minded little girl who wants to ride a dangerous horse, was published by the Institute last year. Two more books, Yuwalin and Bidhagurr Wuurili Bunhdhiwi will be printed this month. All of Irene’s books are illustrated by her daughter, award winning Hope Vale artist Donna Cobus. This year we hope that Irene will continue to write and that many more Guugu Yimidhirr writers will take up the pen. Lillian Bowen has just drafted her first three readers, delightfully funny little stories about the doings of the Biniir Family from the Yirrgii Guugu Yimidhirrbi lesson books.



## ‘Student Education Trust’ investing in the success of the next generation



Student Education Trusts

If we want our kids to grow up strong in their culture and strong in the mainstream world, education is the key.

The Student Education Trust (SET) is one of the key strategies introduced under Cape York Welfare Reform (CYWR) in Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge to improve the education of our kids. SET is an education trust that lets parents and carers plan ahead and save to support a child’s education and development from ‘birth to graduation’. SET seeks to change social norms around education by shifting responsibility for the provision of school materials back where it belongs - with parents and carers. SET is all about investing in education - we want to see our people making a greater investment in the success of the next generation.

The first SET account was opened in 2004. Since then, over 800 accounts have been opened across the four CYWR communities to support over 800 individual students. Based on the most recently available data, this represents nearly 80% of the population of individuals aged zero to 19 years in these four communities. At the end of 2013 there were a total of 555 unique donors to these SET accounts—many of whom were donating to multiple accounts. The vast majority of donors are women—mums, grandmothers, aunts and sisters. Great to see strong Indigenous women in these communities investing in a better future for the next generation!

SET donors had, at the end of 2013, saved nearly \$1 Million in those accounts to support the educational needs of these 800+ students. This is a great investment in the future.

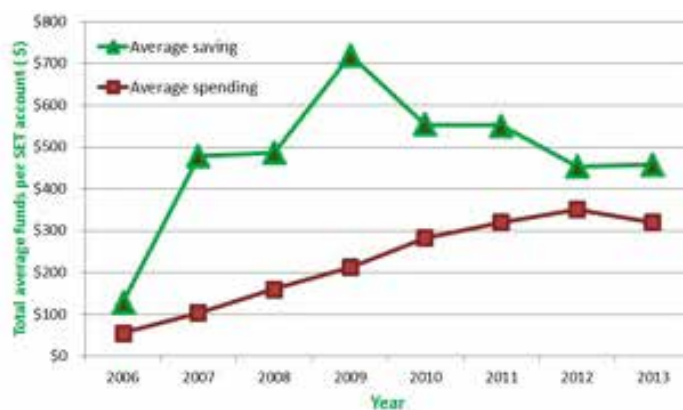
These funds are being spent to buy things like uniforms, stationery, readers, books, educational toys and games, and school bags.

Over the lifespan of SET donors are both saving and spending SET funds at higher levels. This is great news. It means more is being invested in education of the next generation. The graph shows the saving and spending for SET accounts heading upwards since 2006.

Importantly, the gap between saving and spending is closing too over time. This tells us that we have got SET just about right. Students are seeing real outcomes from SET- money is not being left to languish in SET accounts, but is instead being used to purchase important school materials.

SET has achieved a huge shift in social norms around education. Things are beginning to change. Whereas families once relied on the government to provide them with school materials, or students simply went without, families are now becoming the main providers of these goods. This sends a strong message to students: EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT!

While SET has already achieved great things, it is only the beginning in a long journey. We want all students in the CYWR communities attending school all of the time, so they can achieve great things. SET will continue to play a critical role in ensuring that parents and carers take responsibility and make sure that their children have the best opportunities to achieve success.



Graph A. Average saving and spending dollar amounts per SET account, 2006-2013

## Aspiring leader Kia Yeatman nominated for Trainee of the Year

There is no stopping Cape York Institute’s rising star Kia Yeatman who has been nominated for Small Business Trainee of the Year at this week’s Skills 360 Training Awards and Trainee of the Year at the Queensland Training Awards in Brisbane next month.

Kia is a household name in her home community of Yarrabah, where at the tender age of 18 is a pillar of support when it comes to fund raising, community events, and assisting young people in need.

“My Dad worked at the Council so I grew up seeing him help people and I would help where I could. I enjoy seeing people in need with a smile on their face, it’s the best thing,” Ms Yeatman said.

Kia injects this same commitment into her studies and work securing several nominations at upcoming training awards.

Cape York Institute (CYI) CEO Fiona Jose said Kia Yeatman is a quietly spoken yet

determined young lady whose humility and honesty define her as a strong leader.

“Kia entered the CYI Leaders Program six years ago and she is now a supervisor on the program helping younger members to achieve their goals. Through her own activities and achievements, she has become a great role model for others,” Ms Jose said.

There is no task beyond Kia when it comes to her community. She has played in the memorial rugby league team, helps to coordinate and supervise camps, she completed her Bronze Medallion to become a lifeguard at the Yarrabah Aquatic Centre, and fundraising for other local people to attend sporting and self-development events take care of her free time.

She is passionate about making sure kids attend school, and educating young people about underage pregnancy. “Young people close to me have been pregnant. I really want

to educate young people in this area,” she said.

Kia commutes from Yarrabah each day to work at Cape York Institute in Cairns. As a member of the Cape York Institute Leaders Program, she has travelled to many parts of Australia representing young Indigenous people. Kia helped to organise and was a supervisor of the program’s Academic Leaders Secondary camp which brought together more than 70 local Indigenous young people.

Kia has addressed national Indigenous leaders on issues challenging young Indigenous people and hopes to be selected for the National Youth Indigenous Parliament to be held in Canberra later this year where she would talk with the nation’s leaders about the issues close to her heart.

“Education and training opens up so many opportunities and I want to be able to inspire other young people to pursue their dreams, just like I am doing.” Kia said.

# When dreams come true

Laverne Hookey, Indigenous Engagement Officer Hope Vale, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

Not even the rain could dampen the community spirit and their celebration at the official opening of the Hope Vale Banana Farm.

In early February, hundreds of community members joined the Queensland Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, Glen Elmes, and Indigenous Land Corporation/Indigenous Business Australia Chairperson Dr Dawn Casey to launch the farm and acknowledge the work of so many to bring their dream to life.

Uncle Herman Bambi's warm welcome to country gave way to a number of speakers, with many listing the employment and training opportunities the farm brings for Hope Vale, and the inspiration it holds for other communities in Cape York.

Also present was the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Queensland State Manager, Mr Darren Hooper, who said that the Australian Government has supported this project from its earliest stages, and wish its success now and into the future.

In a joint venture with international agri-business Dole, the farm uses 80 hectares of freehold land to grow and sell the bananas, providing employment for 30 local people. Early expectations are that 100 000 cartons will be sold in 2014.

As one local resident said, "this land is a central part of the connection to country and



to our identity; this is what our old people used to do. Now we have been given back the opportunity to do it just like them."

The Banana Farm is managed and operated by the Hope Vale Foundation and is a partnership project between the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, Dole Australia, the Australian and Queensland Governments, the Indigenous Land Corporation and Indigenous Business Australia.

Unfortunately, cyclone ITA did not spare the Hope Vale Banana Farm, and at least 95% of the crop was lost. This will obviously affect cash flow, employment, and it may take up

to 10 months to recover and resume sales at full capacity. The damage created by Cyclone ITA had the unintended consequence of putting the spotlight on strong Indigenous economic projects that truly benefit communities and provide employment and transferable skills to Indigenous people. In the next couple of weeks, all key partners in the project will meet and work together to provide ongoing support to this great initiative, and to the workers affected by this devastating event.

**For more information about this project please contact Ken Reid (Hope Vale Foundation) at [ken.reid@hopevf.com](mailto:ken.reid@hopevf.com)**

