



oUT tHERE & Kowanyama Kidzone 2006/2007

December 06 Director- Nadine O'Farrell

You can't predict what God is going to do in Kowanyama nor can you predict how he is going to use a team of ordinary people to show God's love to the remote community. Once again a diverse team of teachers, psychologists, students, retirees, environmental planners, speech pathologists & youth workers arrived in Kowanyama for a week of fun and games. Nadine O'Farrell capably directed the program and each leader was inspired by her enthusiasm and encouragement each morning. Despite the diversity of the group, we had common goals – to support the local Christians, develop relationships with the youth and share Jesus with the children.

This was achieved through a range of day and night activities. Chris and Geoff used their gifts of music, drama and teaching in the morning session. Following the morning sessions, we had very powerful discussions with the children about: youth suicide, drugs, violence, black magic, grace, forgiveness and freedom. We were able to give away several bibles to some of the older girls. An important goal of our program was to support and encourage the Turpin mob as well as Liz Cameron, Sport and Rec Officer. During the week we were able to assist her with the catering for the Annual Football dinner and presentations. A highlight for many of the

team members was the clothes store. The women found it particularly interesting as it gave them an opportunity to meet and greet adult women from the community. A large amount of money was raised and the proceeds went towards providing Christmas hampers to some of the poorer families of Kowanyama. Another highlight was singing Christmas carols to the elderly at the old people's home. The children loved singing the songs that they had been practising all week and some of the children put on a juggling display! We left Kowanyama exhausted but encouraged by what God is doing in Kowanyama. *Liesl*

oUT THERE - Kowanyama 06/07

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Mission Statement

- ☺ Serve Kowanyama Long-term
- ☺ Share the Love of Jesus with Kowanyama
- ☺ Support each other and the local church
- ☺ Encourage Kowanyama children to expand their horizons and pursue their education

October 06 Director - Lara Wieland

The decision to go this October was last minute for a variety of reasons so a big team wasn't put together. This meant that only I and my husband Ron ended up going. This still worked out well as we were able to work in with and help Liz Cameron the sports and rec coordinator that we now work with in Kowanyama.

It also provided a continuous presence for our team which we feel is an important part of what we do in the community. Even though we weren't a huge entertaining team the kids were so happy and relieved to see that we were continuing to come and hadn't ceased caring about them and their community.

It ended up being more in line with our future directions of running very small teams of regulars in April and October that provide continuity and support for Liz and the locals she is training up, whilst June and December remain opportunities to bring in larger teams who bring a variety



of new experiences and talents to the community and new

people get a chance to serve Kowanyama. *Lara*

January 07 Director—Graham Jones

G, day all, for those who haven't met me, my name is Graham and I directed the January Holiday Program.

It was a very busy time for me leading up to the trip, but I soon became aware that it was a bit hectic for each of the team's members in one way or another.

Busyness is not something that we always have control over, but one thing is for sure is that we need to be aware of attempts to draw us away from our faithful God.

As much as our team of seven

came to "serve" in Kowanyama it was pretty clear that we all gelled in a special way serving each other, and in turn served the kids and the community in a passionate way.

My personal insecurity and fears of keeping a successful trip were all but gone.

Mornings were a bit slow in attendance numbers

but numbers wasn't our concern, this in some ways was a blessing and more one on one time was encouraged and in turn stronger relationships were developed with the kids.

Afternoon activities were generally based at

the local pool with lots of kids attending but the leaders were pretty

exhausted after splashing with the energetic kids. I and all involved feel we again had a positive influence on the

community and the kids, and walked away

with experience, thoughts, passions and visions that can only be put down to...

that we served Kowanyama using our talents and gifts in the best way we knew how.

Just to finish up, as being part of the first trip we ran back in 2003, I can't help but to point out the differences that I have seen from, then to now, in the kids behaviour, body language, decline in verbal abuse and swearing and the seemingly strong connections that has developed between leaders and kids, call it global warming? But I cant help

but to think that there is a God who loves the kids of

Kowanyama as much as he loves you and me... what do you think???

Graham



iN hERE Program—January '07

The first iN hERE program ran this January. Five girls won a prize for good school effort and attendance. They came to the Atherton Tablelands for a week long fun camp called 'Splash Out'. The weekend before though they were treated to a weekend of great fun and good experiences. Thanks to the generosity of Matthew Beh & Adrian Grossman they enjoyed a day of waterskiing and tubing on Lake Tinaroo. Then they got to go spotlighting for wildlife on a late night rainforest walk on Reg & Olive's place after Olive had provided a lovely dinner and toasted campfire marshmallows on their scenic verandah. They loved it and even got to see a rare Herbert River Possum which is black and white. Olive is an accomplished artist and gave each of the girls a card of her art-

work to take home. Olive and Reg go to Ron & Lara's church and kindly donated this lovely evening. Thanks Reg & Olive Waltham.

The next day after a visit to Ron & Lara's church and a buffet lunch there they enjoyed an afternoon of swimming, kayaking, 4 wheeler rides and rope swings at Ron & Lara's property. An impromptu birthday cake and party was held for one of the girls whose birthday it was.

Then on to the camp where they had great new experiences, got to meet lots of new people and even made some new friends who have since said they want to correspond with the girls. They learnt a lot about themselves, about life and about God.

Interestingly the parents of these girls came out in full force to proudly see them off at the airport as they left which was a nice surprise. It has long been a sorrow of many people who live in or have worked in this community that

unless it is for a funeral or going to jail. So this celebration of their achievement was

wonderful to see.

I have had continuing reports from various people who have been in touch with the girls or are in Kowanyama that they continue to rave about how great the trip was and what an impact it had on them. We hope this inspires many other kids to try really hard at school this year. Education is so important for these children's future.

Well done to Tim & Leanne Hall for organising the program and the great week for the girls and to Kay Graham for welcoming them into the great Splash Out camp she runs.

Thanks also to the girls' escorts Liz Cameron and Adele Turpin who volunteered their time and helped out on the camp.

iN hERE is a program we have started that is intended to encourage good school attendance and effort, broaden kids horizons and expand their dreams. It was inspired by many comments and suggestions from Kowanyama kids but particularly Alfred Graham who was 14 at the time and said we should have a trip to Cairns to reward the kids doing the right thing at school and not just camps for juvenile offenders. Now iN hERE offers a fully paid trip to a fun holiday camp run by Scripture Union on the Atherton Tablelands called 'Splash Out' as a prize to kids who have been nominated by teachers

WHAT IS iN hERE?!?



and community as good attenders making a good effort at school. The trip also provides opportunities to meet other kids from all walks of life and to have different experiences. We use funds raised by the holiday program volunteers and also receive sponsorship now from:

Pine Rivers Zonta Women's Club

Kowanyama Justice Group

Kowanyama Police Social Fund

Kowanyama Community Council

SOME FEEDBACK....

HELPING OUT THE LOCAL WORKERS

"I am personally exceptionally grateful to the team for helping me with our sport and recreation break up presentation dinner. The team did the BBQ and readied the food and served it. They were unreal and it allowed me time to do other things like the presentations for the kids. The kids were busy everyday at the youth centre in the morning doing lots of cooking and other activities and then they had the afternoon at the pool. We also had a movie night and a breakdance night."

Liz Cameron, Kowanyama Sports and Recreation officer, December 06

LOCAL POLICE

Lance Millwood, Sargent of Kowanyama Police stated that "The program is the best thing since sliced bread. It is the only thing in the community that gives these kids any goal or direction in the time they are out of school." There have also been comments on a perceived drop in juvenile crime rate when we are running the program in the community.

Council and the school and the teachers especially love it as it keeps the kids active in the holiday times in structured activities. This in turn, helps the children to cope better with returning to the very structured school environment after the freedom of the holidays."

"We are talking about impacting people's lives and that requires time and dedication. The dedication and commitment shown by the volunteers has been selfless and humbling. I have been so thankful of their help and dedication and it is humbling to know that they do it all out of their love for the kids and the Community. It is those

Christian attitudes and actions that brings Jesus to our young people.

It is only those dedicated ones who walk the Jesus walk and talk the Jesus talk who will truly have an influence here."

LOCAL JUSTICE GROUP

The Justice Group which comprises elders in the community states that they support us receiving funding on the basis that it would 'lead to a safer, happier, more progressive environment" for the kids.

KOWANYAMA YOUTH WORKER - Liz Cameron

"Let me say that the continuation of this program is vital to our Community as it is having such good results amongst the young people, is well supported by the

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIP—please support these clubs and businesses:

Pine Rivers Zonta Women's Club

Kowanyama Justice Group

Kowanyama Police Social Club

Kowanyama Council

Myers Transport

Bowyers Transport

Kowanyama Retail Store—Orin

Max Stocks Food Wholesalers

Native Title Tribunal—Cairns Office

Evelyn Saragossi

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SCRIPTURE UNION/VOLUNTEERS
DEPT OF FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS (FACSIA)
KOWANYAMA STATE SCHOOL
KOWANYAMA COMMUNITY COUNCIL/SPORTS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Contact Details 2006/2007

Dr Lara Wieland

In conjunction with:

Mr Tim Hall



How you can help!

There are many ways in which you can help:

- Donations — financial, equipment, craft, sports gear (clear out those cupboards!)
- Discounts — if you or someone you know owns a business that may be able to offer us discounts on things we need for programs, particularly transport, this would be greatly appreciated.

- Donations of young children's books and nice 2ndhand clothes
- Prayer and moral support for team leaders and Kowanyama community people.
- Practical base support — e.g. organisational support, grant writing, book-keeping, making up/printing out posters, shopping for teams, help with/ doing newsletters,

- etc.
- Coming on a trip as a team leader—strict criteria apply, but please contact us for details if you are interested.

SPONSORING A PLACE ON THE iN hERE PROGRAM!

