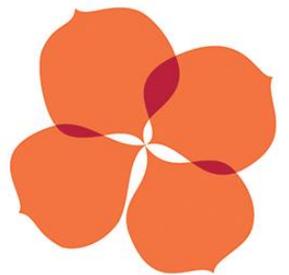


Gäwa Christian School 2021 Annual School Report

NT
Christian
Schools



Location: Gäwa Homeland, Elcho Island
Postal: PMB 257 Elcho Island via Winnellie 0822
Telephone: 08 8970 5212
Fax: 08 8970 5210
Email: admin.gcs@ntschoools.net

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Vision Statement

The vision statement of NT Christian Schools is, *“We desire to be a Christian community, learning together to live life as God intended, offering hope for the world”.*

Gäwa Christian School desires all its students, staff and stakeholders to *“Know and Learn the Truth”* by being *“a learning community where God is glorified in everything we do”.*

Each word in the school’s name is of significance. The name Gäwa recognises that the school is in Warramiri land and a vital part of the vision includes the preservation of Warramiri language and culture. To be Christian is to be shaped by the Cross of forgiveness, grace and reconciliation. To be a school is to know that we do all of the above through the faithful educating of students and staff alike. Thus, behind the name Gäwa Christian School lies its foundations, its vision of *bothways learning in the hands of Jesus.*



Principal's Message

This was a year focusing on Stewardship. We looked at this in its fullest sense: taking care of ALL that God has given us. The Lord in His goodness gave us four foundational relationships: with Himself, with others, with ourselves and with creation.

In 2021, we delved into God's heart of compassion, his desire for us to repent and to draw near to Him. "Galkithirr Limurr Garrawal" (Drawing Close to God Together) was a song our students wrote as well as the theme of our school trip to Darwin.

Participating in different trainings also drew us closer to each other and strengthened our skills. Ninety percent of our regular staff members enjoyed and completed a Provide First Aid + CPR training onsite in Gäwa, thanks to St. John Ambulance NT. One of our senior students also got his qualification. Another highlight was several staff (6) and senior students (6) attending a Learner Driver's Session in Galiwinku. Everyone was over the moon when they received their L plates and licences.

Our unique calling in Gäwa include the preservation of Warramiri knowledge and the gifts of the wider Yolŋu culture. We were able to steward this well in celebrating "Adopted in Love", a book written in Gäwa, in both English and Warramiri. At our Over the Top Conference, our staff members Sarah Gurruwiwi and Yänay Bukulatjpi gave a glimpse of this. The women also led a small group in a Milkarri workshop. Milkarri (literally 'tears') refers to the traditional role of women in Yolŋu culture to lament. This call to lament is affirmed in God's Word.

Looking at caretaking the earth, we welcomed a renovation project that has lifted the Gäwa landscape. We now have an updated kitchen, a larger community shop and a new classroom for our T-3 students - all in one building. If you were present at the opening ceremony as our CFO Mark Elkington was, you would describe the revelation of each new space as "waves of excitement". As the foundational relationships are all inter-related, stewarding one inevitably uplifts the rest. This welcoming space saw many smiles and squeals and lots of prayer and dancing in praise of our Triune God: Father, Son and Spirit.

Rhythms are significant in stewardship. As a staff, we have continued to learn together every week in a time carved out intentionally. Together, we have wrestled through teaching from a biblical perspective through the Creation-Fall-Redemption-Renewal Framework. We have learnt about common health concerns in our community, we have prayed together and encouraged one another. As a school, we have seen the rhythm of Friday Assemblies and Picnic Days become a favourite of our students. Annual events such as the Passover Feast, Easter and ANZAC Day also hold special weight as they point to the kindness of our Sacrificing Saviour King Jesus.

We look at 2021 and through its valleys and peaks, we have seen God's light.

Peace & Joy,

Rachel Herweynen
Teaching Principal



CFO Mark Elkington, Traditional Custodian Daymanju Bukulatjpi and Principal Rachel Herweynen

Staffing Information

The NT Teacher Registration Board has been a wonderful support to our staff team. All teachers are registered with the Board or have been granted with a Permission to Teach.

Our Yolŋu (indigenous) staff make up over 50% of our workforce. We have six *balanda* (non-indigenous) employees and ten Yolŋu employees, three of which worked part-time in 2020 while seven worked on a casual basis. Working together as Yolŋu and *balanda* under the Lordship of Jesus is a distinctive feature of Gäwa Christian School.

		<i>Qualification/Role</i>	<i>FTE</i>
Teaching Principal	Rachel Herweynen	Master of Teaching (Primary and Secondary) B Arts (Speech Comm, Theatre, Writing)	1.0
Teachers	Aileen Yangay Bukulatjpi	Classroom Teacher (T-3) Permission to Teach	0.8
	Kerrie Williamson	Year 4-7 Classroom Teacher (Semester 1 only)	1.0
	Natalie	Year 8-10 Classroom Teacher	1.0
Part-time Teacher Assistants	Wendy Yinagarrangkarr Bukulatjpi	Teacher Assistant	0.6
	Daphne Dhamarrandji	Teacher Assistant	0.35
Additional staff	Cameron Herweynen	Administration & Site Support Officer	0.8
	Lionel Yangipuy	Maintenance/Groundsman	Casual
	Loraini Yalani	Kitchen Staff	0.5
	Dorothy Gurruwiwi	Teacher Aide	Casual
	Sharon Garalwuy	Teacher Aide	Casual
	Sarah Gurruwiwi	Administration Assistant	Casual
	Hannah Gondarra	Teacher Assistant	Casual
	Gaynor Bukulatjpi	Teacher Assistant	Casual



Warramiri Men at the ANZAC Day Program: Cameron Herweynen/Bukulatjpi, Daymanju Bukulatjpi, Daymbali Bukulatjpi, Banthay Bukulatjpi and Balwutjmi Bukulatjpi

Highlights of the school year

- Passover Feast held in March as a lead up to Easter celebrations. This was a well-attended and well-received community event.
- ANZAC Day Celebration was also a significant event attended by a couple of elders, recounting the rescue of two Australian soldiers on the beach at Gäwa by our elder's dad and family. The Australian anthem was sang in both English and Warramiri.
- First Aid and CPR training for majority of staff and 1 senior student conducted over 2 days, ran by St. John Ambulance Staff.
- Staff and senior students acquiring their Learner's Licences.
- Music Week with a visit from former teacher Jason Heslop and the creation of three new songs, including "Galkithirr Walal Garraywal" (Draw Close to God Together).
- The renovation works leading to a new classroom for Getkit Class (T-3) as well as a bigger and better kitchen and shop. The opening ceremony was a special time of community worship and shared excitement and pride.
- Darwin Trip for Year 4-10 student with the theme "Galkithirr Limurr Garraywal", welcomed by the EAL/D Department at Marrara Christian College.

Parents and community

- In 2021, Gäwa Christian School served the homelands of Gäwa and Ban'thula, with many students also coming to school from families in Galiwin'ku.
- With learning on country classes, elders have passed on traditional knowledge in traditional ways such as the bungul, with many students participating. The school continuing to honour the role of parents and grandparents is essential to strengthening students' identity.
- As part of the preparation for the Darwin Trip, parents who live in town were shuttled into Gäwa for the Information Meeting, which for some of them was their first time in Gäwa. This was a special moment and a first in what we hope will be part of a regular rhythm: enabling parents in town to have regular involvement in the life of the school.

Facilities

The funds from Building Better Schools, school funding, and a generous donation from a private donor saw the completion of the renovations in the school kitchen and shop area, with the addition of a new classroom for Getkit (T-3) class. This building is almost 20 years old, built on very limited funds back in the day so it benefitted from renovation work. It is now the most beautiful and most multi-purpose building on the school site.



Renovation Project Construction



Renovation Project Completed



Critical Incidents

There were no critical incidents in 2021.

School self-assessment

FINANCE & RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP MATTERS		
<p>Regardless of the immediate source, we acknowledge that all our material resources are a part of God's generous provision to us. We therefore have a responsibility to be wise stewards of these resources. This understanding influences all decisions relating to finance, development and use of facilities and management of resources.</p> <p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop processes that facilitate and strengthen a shared understanding of NT Christian Schools financial management and promote efficient, effective stewardship at all levels. • Reduce reliance on debt and explore ways to create funding capacity that is independent of government income. 		
Whole School Strategies	How will we know we've made a difference?	Progress Update
Follow maintenance plan and establish relationships with reliable contractors.	School facilities are in good working order and safe for staff and students. Contractors are familiar with the site through ongoing, regular visits.	Site Manager has sought to use both on-island and Darwin-based contractors. Updates to Maintenance schedule discussed with Maintenance Team in Term 2, 2021.
Invest in the renovation of the school kitchen and community shop with the addition of a third classroom for Getkit (Transition to Year 3 students).	School kitchen is in use with better workflow and storage. Community shop is more spacious, able to store and offer healthier food options that town shops. Getkit students and staff are settled into their own space and learning well.	3 months delay as of 27 July 2021, some understandable delays, working on catching up. Completed and opened in October 2021.
Toilet renovation to provide culturally appropriate spaces for male and female staff and students, also to include enclosing top to avoid vandalism.	Students feel safe and comfortable using assigned toilets. Cleaning staff deal with little to no vandalism. Toilets are well maintained as they are lockable outside of school hours.	Ashford and McLean to undertake project. Pandemic delays means third quarter of 2022 start.
Prioritise staff housing maintenance and renovation works for 2021: treat significant rusting, necessary bathroom upgrades and flooring. Apply for grants.	Staff housing have increased longevity with rust treated before further damage is done. Staff feel honoured as their homes are being well-maintained.	Applying for BGA grant 2022 for assistance. BGA Grant approved, T & T Constructions from Gove to undertake project, commencing third quarter of 2022.
Connect with a reliable mechanic to maintain vehicle fleet: 2 troopies and 1 school bus.	There is more than one vehicle ready for use at any one time. Vehicle turnaround between servicing is very reasonable.	Ken Scott Services current contractors. They have shown good turnaround time and transparency.

In 2022, the school self-assessment focus will be Faith Matters: Christian Identity.