

Marrma' Rom

Two Worlds

Foundation



Greetings

It's been another busy and prosperous semester for the Marrma' Rom - Two Worlds Foundation since the last newsletter, and I have much to report upon. On a personal front, Melissa and I cuddled little Archie Cameron into the world 8 weeks ago, and since then our lives have been enriched beyond all expectations. Yirrmal, Jerol and Dion have adored having little Archie in the house, and can't wait to take him out hunting and kick the footy with him – when he's big enough.

For the first time we had family members come down from Arnhem Land to visit the "yawarriny" (young men) and see the Leadership Program in action. In Term 3 Jerol's Father - Lindsay Wunungmurra, and Dion's Mum and Dad – Julie Anne and Lanyipi Wunungmurra, came down to visit their sons. Their visit coincided with Dion playing in the St. Mary's U16 grand final winning team. Yirrmal graduated in Term 4, and his Mother and Father - Rita and Witiyana Marika, came down to attend his Graduation Mass.

The yawarriny had many gigs during Term 4. Performing as a trio, 'Yirrmal and the Yolngu Boys' played two sets at Queenscliff Music Festival and were then invited on stage to dance during Geoffrey Gurrumul's set. They also won a busking competition in Geelong, and performed with Neil Murray and Shane Howard. It was a busy term!

Family Visit To Geelong

In third term my family and Jerol's Father came down from Gapuwiyak to visit us in Geelong. They flew down with Qantas - it took them four hours. Jerol and I picked our parents up from Melbourne airport.

I showed my parents around St Joseph's College. They were surprised how big the College was. I was really happy because the other students were very friendly to my Mum and Dad.

My parents and I went to see a football match at Simond's Stadium. We watched Geelong Cats vs Sydney Swans. On Saturday they watched a game of football I played in. I played a Grand Final for St Mary's against St Joseph's. On Saturday evening we came to St Joseph's College for dinner with students from St John's College in Darwin. On Monday I played a football match for St John's against St Joseph's College. My parents and I went to Geelong city for shopping, and then went home and had dinner.

My family was feeling proud of me. They were happy and pleased with the decision to get an education in Geelong. I also felt proud of myself and I am pleased to be in Geelong but still miss home.

By Dion
Wunungmurra

Jerol, Lindsay, Julie Anne
Dion, Lanyipi and Yirrmal



Graduation Mass



Witiyana and Rita at the Graduation Mass. Witiyana is fitting the ceremonial headdress.



At the Year 12 Graduation Dinner.



Witiyana and Rita performed a Smoking Ceremony for newborn Archie.



Last term my parents came down from Yirrkala to Geelong in Victoria for my Graduation Mass. They stayed at a motel and St. Joseph's college Geelong helped us for accommodation. When they got here my Mum didn't like the weather - it was too cold for her. But my Dad didn't mind about weather - that's what he was saying. Anyway they had a really good week, especially my Mum, because she hadn't been in a city like this. It was the first time down south for her.

In the morning I went to school for "muck up day", and there was lots of different activities on at St. Joseph's College. Everyone was dressed up in their own costumes, and all year 12 boys were excited to complete their final year of school. After that my parents came to visit my school - to see what St. Joseph's College looks like. Mrs Brodrick took them around to show them all the building and classes, and to see what subjects are taught. After they had a tour around the school, they went back to the staff room to eat their lunch. Then Cameron came to pick us up. We headed back home, because my Mum and Dad were tired. Cam and I drove back home to get ready for my Graduation Mass. At night, it was time for the Graduation Mass for all the year 12 students. All their families were there, watching them get their Year 12 Completion Award.

At the start of the graduations Mass Alex did the acknowledgement of country for Wathaurong people, the traditional owners. Then my family and I, and Jerol and Dion walked from the back down the middle aisle to the front of hall. My Dad sang a traditional ceremony song from our homeland for a couple minutes. I was dressed in traditional costume with a feather headdress. After Communion Jack and I played two songs. Everyone just loved it when we played our two songs. It was a really good night. My Mum and Dad were really proud of me.

By Yirrmal Marika

Performance News

Yirmal had many performance opportunities this semester, either with his band 'Revolution' from Oxygen College, with the Marrma' Rom Foundation yawarriny trio as 'Yirmal and the Yolngu Boys', or as a solo performer.

'Revolution' played two great gigs; at the Courthouse Theatre - Geelong Performing Arts Centre; and at the Anglesea Music Festival. Revolution performs the songs Yirmal has written, as well as the East Journey and Yothu Yindi covers he has in his set list. His performance has even more energy with a full backing band behind him, and they have recorded three tracks already.



Yirmal performed with Jack Harmon accompanying on guitar at several school assemblies, however it was his solo set at Queenscliff Music Festival that really stood out. He performed a 30-minute set on the RIP stage, and received a standing ovation from the packed crowd. He was also invited by Shane Howard to perform at the Forum theatre recently in the 'Other Side of the Rock' Concert, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the release of 'Solid Rock'. Yirmal joined Neil Murray on stage during 'My Island Home', and returned for the finale of 'Solid Rock', standing on stage between Shane, Archie Roach and Bart Willoughby. It was an amazing honour for the young man to sing alongside his heroes, and a tribute to the hard work and many hours he has spent honing his musical talents this year.

'Yirmal and the Yolngu Boys' really only formed in Term 4 although, almost every night, Melissa, Archie and I hear the didgeridoo, clap sticks and voices singing traditional "manikay" ceremonial songs downstairs in the yawarriny's flat. Nevertheless, we were all surprised when they won the Bell-Ringers Award at the Geelong 'Streets Are Alive' Busking Festival in their inaugural performance. Held over a weekend, the yawarriny performed five 30-minute busking sets around the streets. Their victory won them \$1000 and three tickets to the Fringe Festival in Adelaide next year.

Yirmal and the Yolngu Boys then performed at the Queenscliff Music Festival. After Yirmal's solo set (Dion and Jerol accompanying him on two songs) the yawarriny were invited by Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu to dance on the main stage to two of his songs. The lads thrilled the huge crowd with their powerful display of Yolngu culture, giving Gurrumul's performance even greater energy and colour. Following that, everywhere the yawarriny went, they were congratulated by and chatted with festivalgoers who had witnessed their performance. The lads were on a high. Consequently, the next day their gig at the Uniting Church - 'Stoked on Hesse' - was packed out. They performed with passion and talent, and received a long, overwhelming standing ovation by the audience at the end.



The Yawarriny performing at the Queenscliff Music Festival in November.

Yirmal and the Yolngu Boys' final performance for the year was opening for Neil Murray at the Torquay Bowling Club. A fantastic crowd, with many friends in the audience, was truly impressed by the yawarriny's melding of traditional manikay and Arnhem pop songs. The yawarriny were tight and inspired; Jerol played the bongos and danced with strength and pride; Dion played didgeridoo and sang backing vocals, harmonising beautifully with Yirmal; Yirmal's guitar playing was spot on, and his soaring, heartfelt vocals hit the note every time. It was a fine performance, and left everyone present excited about the future of 'Yirmal and the Yolngu Boys'.



Yirmal with Shane, Archie Roach, Neil Murray and other legends.



Dion, his parents and his Premier's Medal.



Jerol after his induction as Fire Carrier in 2013

WOW Camp

On Sunday the October 7th I went to Melbourne to complete a W.O.W program. A W.O.W (Worlds Of Work) program is designed to help teenagers understand the working environment.

On my trip I went to Melbourne with our tutor, Lisa Couzens, her son Jarred, and Jerol. This trip went for one week and was for Indigenous students from Catholic schools.

When we arrived we met with other Catholic Indigenous students. The first thing we did was go to dinner at a restaurant. We had pizza and pasta, which tasted good. We had conversations about where we came from. Some students came from Geelong schools like Clonard and Sacred Heart College, however other students came from Ballarat and Bendigo.

On Tuesday we broke up into groups and had conversation about the activities we would do and workplace visit.

From Tuesday to Friday we visited plenty of workplaces such as Red Cross, I.P.M and the A.B.C. I liked all of them because I learnt how to get a job and how to succeed. I have never seen places like this before.

At the end of the week I was required to make a presentation. The people I presented to were parents, other students and people from the workplaces we visited. All the students stood and read their story about what they did during the week. I was very proud of what I did and everybody was very pleased.

How Can You Help?

A huge thank you to all the wonderful and supportive people who generously donated online to the Marrma' Rom - Two Worlds Foundation. Your support has been vital to our survival so far. With Christmas almost upon us, and troubling events occurring all around us, it's a good time to recognise a positive program such as the Marrma' Rom - Two Worlds Foundation; a not-for-profit charity that is working hard to create real change and empower the future leaders of Arnhem Land Communities.

We are planning to hold a Fundraiser in Term 1 in 2013 and we will also launch the new website.

The address is mrf2worldsgeelong.org.au

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, then Internet transfer is the easiest way:

Acc Name: M Rom Foundation Incoming

BSB: 033 208

Acc No.: 294 352

Make sure you email us with your name so we can send your tax receipt.

By Dion Wunungmurra

Marrma' Rom Newsletter #2
Term 4 Edition December 2012

Marrma' Rom – Two Worlds Foundation
Incorporation No. IA 03012
ABN 97 619 011 257