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Education Transformations

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"Our mission is to be a valued and trusted partner working alongside Indigenous families and communities to design sustainable and successful education solutions"

Tiwi Education Board Handover An exciting new phase for Tiwi College



Tiwi College—an oasis of education opportunity

It is with great excitement we hand on management of Tiwi College to the Tiwi Education Board (TEB). Education Transformations and Northern Territory Christian Schools have worked alongside the TEB for the past five years to plan, advocate, design, recruit, train and manage this exciting development in community-driven education. The College now has capacity for 72 students and starts 2010 with a healthy enrolment of Year 7 students. We acknowledge the confidence and

support of the Commonwealth in providing the bulk of the \$17.5m needed to construct this new learning community on Melville Island. The Tiwi Education Board have led the country in innovative planning for educating their young people. They are inspired by a desire to see the Tiwi nation flourish. The Tiwi College is making a unique contribution educating Tiwi young people who otherwise had no opportunity for a high school education.



Wind power: delivering light and hope

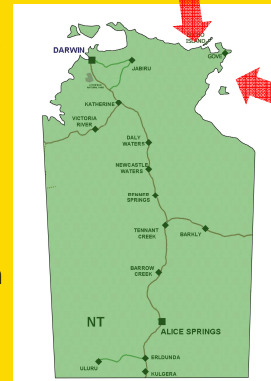
Students at Gawa Christian School (Elcho Island) celebrate their new state-of-the-art wind generator. Power from the wind will now provide sufficient electricity for the needs of the school and the community. It is the largest non-commercial wind generator in Australia.

New homeland schools planned for Arnhem Land — Mapuru and Banyala: school education arrives at last!

Arnhem Land is dotted with homeland communities who are determined to make a future on their traditional land. Gawa Christian school (est. 2004) provides inspiration for other remote homelands who are seeking to secure education for their children. For decades they have waited for schools that never came. Jackie Nguluwidi from Mapuru community (Arnhem Land adjacent to Elcho island) has worked for many years to educate the community's young people carrying forward the vision of his father. Mapuru is planning to start their school in July 2010 in partnership with the NT Christian Schools.

Banyala is 200km south of Nhulunbuy on the Gulf

of Carpentaria. Community leader, Djambawa Marawili has also been fighting for good schooling at Banyala and the community has recently made application for an independent Christian School to start by the middle of 2010. Education Transformations and NT Christian Schools are partnering with the Banyala community and the Sydney Cove Rotary Club to research and develop new schools in the East Arnhem region.



"Our vision is to see happy, healthy Indigenous families and communities shaping their own future."

Education Transformations Board

Morris Stuart, Jack Mechielsen (Chair), Cor Koole, Craig Winkler and Andrew White (Exec Director)



Djambawa Marawili AM

Djambawa Marawili, Community leader at Banyala community and one of Australia's most important Indigenous artists has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia. Djambawa believes the award is important for his Yolngu people of Arnhem Land because it will help bridge the divide between their culture and that of the Balanda (white person).

'Educating for Hard Times' International Transforming Education Conference 2011

Education Transformations has been asked to organise an International Transforming Education Conference in July 2011 for Christian educators. The conference will bring together 1500 people locally, nationally and globally to share and learn at the Darwin Convention Centre. The conference is two and half days with four satellite conferences spanning the days before and after the conference. The conference theme: *Educating for Tough Times* will highlight education for marginalised people and the challenges of Christian schooling in the 21st Century.



Education Transformations has recently become incorporated as a public company and has made application for charitable status. The development signals a new era which will see more resources become available for the development of community-driven schools in remote areas. The Board's Vision is: *"To see happy, healthy Indigenous families and communities shaping their own future."* Education Transformations works closely with Indigenous leaders in a region as partners in the development of new and effective models of schooling.

Walpiri Education Board

Motto: Let's not get angry... Let's get organised

After having met with the Walpiri Education Board and learning of their need for a community controlled school, its great to see how they have progressed to a Corporation representing Willowra, Yuendumu, Lajamanu and Nyirripi, pursuing every avenue as they make progress with their application for the Walpiri School. The Board has planned to meet six times this year and to make application to their own royalty trusts for the resources to undertake the necessary research. The Walpiri are a strong people occupying a large tract of country to the north-west of Alice Springs. They have a 'track-record' of success in developing their own solutions to problems including the nationally acclaimed Mt Theo Project, Walpiri Media, and the Jaru purrijidii Indigenous knowledge and curriculum project. Their vibrant Christian faith and close connection to their land and customs produce a strong education philosophy which they believe can prepare their young people to not just survive but to thrive.

Families and Schools Together (FAST)

Families and Schools Together involves a partnership between schools, communities and *Education Transformations* working together to strengthen family life. The programme has been winner of the NT Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award and formally acknowledged by NAIDOC as received their "Outstanding Contribution to Families" award. FAST continues to be a vital family support and growth programme, which produces happier families and improved engagement with school. FAST has been working with the East Arnhem community of Yirrikala over the last 2 years. The most recent programme in fourth term 2009 was another fantastic success, where parents, school staff and FAST team members observed many positive changes in the children, adding, "We have learnt many new things about our children that will help them grow up strong".



Wanted: House Parents



House parents care for up to 12 students, giving young indigenous people the opportunity for quality secondary education. We need house parents urgently at the Woolaning Homeland Christian College. Please call or send us an email now to register your interest.