

City school lends a hand to drought-stricken Weethalle

By Rod White, Principal, Weethalle Public School



James Stewart, Captain of Turramurra High School with Nicole Caldwell, Weethalle.

On Saturday 3 June, the overwhelming divide between life in a Sydney North Shore school and that in a tiny rural school in south-west NSW was bridged by the generosity of Turramurra High School.

The Principal and two School Captains of Turramurra High School visited the drought-stricken community of Weethalle, some 6 hours drive from Sydney, to participate in a Family Fun Day at Weethalle Public School.

The day was organised to bring the Weethalle community together and to remind them that their city counterparts do care about the ongoing financial and emotional hardship experienced by rural communities.

A surprise donation of \$5000 to Weethalle Public School from Turramurra High School not only brought tears to the eyes of Weethalle parents and community members, but also left no doubt that

communities like Weethalle are acknowledged and appreciated by city dwellers.

While sharing the common goal of providing quality education, the two schools certainly have their differences. Turramurra High has close to 950 students compared to the 50 currently attending Weethalle Public School.

However, the differences didn't matter when Turramurra School Captains James Stewart and Skye Stronquist entertained the children of Weethalle with outdoor games and indoor craft activities.

Meanwhile the Weethalle P&C hosted a country cook-up dinner using camp ovens to roast local lamb, beef, chicken and vegies, followed by traditional damper and billy tea. After dinner, the adults relaxed around the open fire, telling stories and sharing experiences about two very different worlds.

The children thoroughly enjoyed James and Skye's friendship and the maturity and leadership displayed by each of them highlights the calibre of students a quality high school produces – they are both wonderful ambassadors for public education.

This recent visit follows a similar visit last October when James and Skye once again treated the community to a Family Fun Day and the Principal of Turramurra High School, Graeme McMartin, presented the school with a \$1500 cheque.

The Weethalle community was stunned to receive not only another visit from their city friends, but another larger donation of funds for their school. And, with 2006 being recognised as Year of the Outback, there is no better time to foster relationships between the city and rural communities. Graeme, James and Skye have brought so much joy to the children and the wider community. Their visits have given Weethalle the opportunity to celebrate our strong community and great little school.

WEB WATCH

Internet services are an important part of life for rural people. Knowing what types of services are available and what your rights are will help you get the most out of your internet services. Have a look at the following websites for more information.

www.telinfo.gov.au
Provides up-to-date information and assistance about telecommunications. Click on the 'Internet, HiBIS and Broadband - Information for Consumers' section for an overview of the many options available to you, choosing the best service provider, and your rights as a consumer.
Visit the telinfo website or Ph: 1800 883 488 freecall.

www.toolkit.aca.gov.au
A Toolkit to help you choose the best value mobile, internet and fixed line products and services. Helps you understand the products and services that meet your needs, identifies important questions to ask before signing a contract or purchasing a product and directs you to other relevant information and links, so you can make an informed choice. Visit the website or call 1800 35 11 35.

www.broadbandchoice.com.au
Find out what broadband services are available in your area and the best priced plan. Search for providers by state or postcode or simply enter your telephone number. Broadband Choice currently lists 258 providers and 4643 plans. Whether you're overwhelmed by choice, or a frustrated rural user, this website is convenient and useful.

what's on, what's new?

WOMEN IN SPORT & RECREATION AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION

This is a new award to recognise the outstanding contributions and achievement of women in sport in NSW. Nominees must be 18 years of age or over and be a resident of NSW. Nominations for the second intake open 1 September 2006. For more information, Ph: 02 9006 3823 or Visit: www.dsr.nsw.gov.au

Women's paid work

The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, National Foundation for Australian Women, and the Women's Electoral Lobby have teamed up to commission research on Australian women's position in the workforce.

This research will assist in developing sound public policy responded and recommend further work to promote gender equality at work, including pay equity and family friendly work arrangement.

As well as providing a snapshot of pay and conditions for women in the first half of 2006, the research will include interviews with women from across Australia to gain a better understanding of factors affecting their work conditions and opportunities.

For more information, contact Paul Oliver on Ph: 02 9284 9880, Marie Coleman on Mob: 0414 483 067 or Jenny Earle on Mob: 0412 159 901.

Information from www.comcen.com.au/~welns

Me and My Changing Family:

Navigating the highs and lows of stepfamily life can be a rollercoaster ride for everyone involved – parents, new partners, kids, and the extended family – but now there's a guide to help. ***Me and My Changing Family*** – a free booklet produced by the Child Support Agency (CSA) aims to help stepfamilies move forward and build healthy relationships. It is full of practical tips and hints including: Moving on – the practicalities of making stepfamilies work; Information for parents – such as how to get along with your partner's ex; What to do when your ex re-partners and how to manage changing circumstances; Through kids' eyes – what are your kids going through? Turf wars. Divided loyalties; Extended family – What about the grandparents? Where to go to get extra help if you need it.

To order a free copy of Me and My Changing Family, see the CSA website at: www.csa.gov.au or Ph: 1800 040 972

SKIRTS ON SACRED BENCHES

From Jozefa Sobski, 'WEL Informed', newsletter of the Women's Electoral Lobby, June 2006

Millicent Preston-Stanley, the first woman elected to the NSW Parliament, once said, 'The heavens won't fall because a woman's skirts rustle on the sacred benches.' Her comment now forms the title of a new section of the Australian Women's Archives website, Putting skirts on the sacred benches, a comprehensive tribute to the women who have stood for the NSW parliament.

This new website lists 700 women candidates for parliamentary office. Around 400 women have a biographical entry and these make fascinating reading. You can sort the candidates alphabetically, by party, by seat or electorate and by year in which they stood for the NSW Parliament.

NSW women gained the right to vote in 1902, but it was not until 1918 they were permitted to sit in the Parliament. Seven years later, Millicent Preston-Stanley, a Nationalist party candidate was elected to the NSW Legislative Assembly for the electorate of Eastern suburbs.

Researchers Dr Emma Grahame and her daughter Rachel were supported by a NSW Committee headed by Ros Strong. The researchers grew fond of their fascinating subjects: women who broke new ground while raising families and pursuing many causes through selfless community service. They were pioneers who were persistent and courageous with a strong sense of social responsibility and promoters of the fledgling democracy.

www.womenaustralia.info

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE A PENGUIN?

Probably not, but, on the other hand, have you ever been at a meeting where you desperately wanted to put your views forward but were too terrified to stand up? Does the thought of giving a vote of thanks turn your knees to water, or moving or seconding a motion fill you with dread? Then becoming a member of the ***Penguin Club of Australia Inc*** could be the answer to your fears.

The Penguin Club was formed in 1937 and is an Australian-wide not-for-profit organisation for women aimed at learning to speak with confidence and gaining expertise in meeting procedure in a friendly, supportive environment. NSW presently only has two groups – one in Sydney City and the other in Wagga Wagga.

If you are interested in getting a club up and running in your community, contact Helen de Plater, NSW Regional Officer on Ph/Fax: 02 6926 2921 or Email: helenron43@hotmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT

Managing community groups – online resources

This A-Z resource includes everything from how to start and manage a community group, how to market your community group, how to run your board including recruiting and keeping new board members and how to comply with all the demands and changes in taxation and legal requirements.

Topics include: Developing an effective board; developing and managing a community group; managing legal, tax and compliance; managing volunteers; marketing your group; raising funds; starting a community group; and using technology.

www.ourcommunity.com.au/management/management_main.jsp

NEGOTIATION SKILLS TOOLKIT

Prepared by communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au, this toolkit is a summary from a variety of sources of some of the principles, steps and strategies in the process of negotiation. Compiled by Roslyn McDonald from Community Builders, it was inspired by a presentation by Sam Jeffries, Chairperson of the Murdi Paaki Regional Council at the NSW Premier's Department, Strategic Projects Division Conference in December 2002. During his talk, Sam made a distinction between consultation and negotiation. Consultation is now a popular and common strategy in community development. But for true community participation, people must also have the power to influence and help determine the decisions being made i.e. be part of negotiating a final outcome that is acceptable to all parties.

To view the toolkit, Visit: www.communitybuilders.nsw.gov.au/getting_organised/people/negtk.html

101 ways to prevent family violence

101 Ways was produced to document a diversity of community-based prevention activities around Victoria. The kit also includes some notable projects conducted elsewhere in Australia and internationally. 101 Ways aims to draw out the way projects work; the approaches they take; why they work; some of the key lessons learned along the way; and resources, issues and hot tips for those working in this area. The kit is designed as an action guide and a resource for any organisation that wants to work with the community to prevent family violence.

To order a copy of the kit, Ph: 03 9486-9866 or Email: dvirc@dvirc.org.au or Visit: www.dvirc.org.au to view the Kit online.

Drought resources

If you or your family is suffering from hardships due to the continuing drought there are people and services out there who can help step you through the maze of information and services available. Three valuable services offered by NSW DPI include:

Drought Hotline: Ph: 1800 814 647 Monday to Friday between 8.30 am and 5 pm. Voice mail available after hours. You can also Email: hotline@dpi.nsw.gov.au or Visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/drought

NSW Guide to Drought Support Services: A quick reference guide to drought support services in the state. Visit: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/quick-reference-guide.pdf

Drought Support Workers: provide immediate personal support, basic information and referral to other appropriate services:

North West: Jenny Croft – Mob: 0429 446 417, Ph: 02 6741 8336, Email: jenny.croft@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Far West: Lyn Leigo – Mob: 0427 265 810, Ph: 02 6872 2077, Email: lynette.leigo@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Central West: Jan Bruce – Mob: 0427 257 191, Ph: 02 6862 1000, Email: jan.bruce@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Hunter: Tania Chesworth – Mob: 0428 249 092, Ph: 02 6545 1800, Email: tania.chesworth@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Hunter: Carolyn Long – Mob: 0428 296 332, Ph: 02 6545 1800, Email: caroline.long@dpi.nsw.gov.au

South West: Don Burrowes – Mob: 0427 324 033, Ph: 03 5881 5766, Email: don.burrowes@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Riverina: Lloyd Kingham – Mob: 0427 957 535, Ph: 02 6938 1987, Email: lloyd.kingham@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Southern Tablelands & Coast: Dick Kearins – Mob: 0427 781 514, Ph: 02 4828 6600, Email: dick.kearins@dpi.nsw.gov.au

South West: Danny Byrnes – Mob: 0428 973 141, Ph: 02 6993 1608, Email: danny.byrnes@dpi.nsw.gov.au

HOW TO MASTER NETWORKING BY ROBYN HENDERSON

Provides a step-by-step plan to take the confusion out of attending networking events, exchanging business cards, keeping in touch without being pushy and building successful business and career networks.

How to Master Networking costs \$25 and can be ordered online at: www.networkingtowin.com.au or Ph: 02 66740211, Fax: 02 66740233, or Email: info@networkingtowin.com.au

COUNSELLING FOR CARERS OF SOMEONE WITH A GENETIC DISABILITY

The Association of Genetic Support of Australasia (AGSA) provides support for carers of people with a genetic condition. The Association provides face-to-face and tele counselling, presents workshops and organises information seminars in rural areas.

For more information contact Laurie Taylor, AGSA Project Officer on Ph: 02 9211 1462, Fax: 02 9211 8077, Email: projects@agsa-geneticsupport.org.au or Visit: www.agsa-geneticsupport.org.au



WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTRES

Women's Health Centres are community-based women's health services run by women for women. There are centres across NSW, offering a wide range of services in a holistic framework of health and wellbeing, for low or no cost. Contact Women's Health NSW on Ph: 02 9560 0866 for your nearest centre or look under 'W' in the phone book.



INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE ADVISORY NETWORK (ICAN)

ICAN was founded by Federal Independent MPs Peter Andren, Tony Windsor and Bob Katter to encourage independent candidates around Australia to take the giant step of running for state or federal parliament. The website provides advice, support, ideas and personal contact with MPs.

If you're thinking of running as an independent, check out the ICAN website at: www.icanonline.net.au.

Australian Women's Archives Project

A joint project of the National Foundation for Australian Women and the University of Melbourne History Department, The Australian Women's Archives Project on-line register is an exciting, valuable and growing source of biographical data about Australian women and their organisations, with links to their websites and to the archival repositories where their records are held. Currently there are close to 1500 individual women profiled and listed alphabetically.

Visitors to the site will be able to search through a functional classification – P covers physicists, politicians, pharmacists, pacifists, palaeontologists, and much more. As well, there are now a number of virtual exhibitions on-line which recognise particular groups of women, such as those who received recognition through the former Imperial Honours system, and another recognising the contribution Australian service women have made. More exhibitions are currently being developed.

The register is continually growing and provides:

- a brief biographical note on each individual, organisation or event;
- career of life highlights;
- any published resources about these entities;
- any archival or heritage collection in which their records are to be found; and
- any related or online links to other sources of information about them.

Visit: www.womenaustralia.info

Dust Echoes

A series of Indigenous Dreamtime stories which date back to the *time of dust* have been brought to life through an innovative new website. The stories aim to encourage children to experience the richness of Indigenous Australian culture. Dust Echoes also features a range of comprehensive primary and secondary educational materials for teachers and students including safety and survival in the bush, Indigenous ceremonies and traditional arts and craft techniques.

For more information visit: www.dustechoes.com.au

SPECIAL DAYS

World Rural Women's Day 15 October 2006

RURAL WOMEN: LEADERS OF TOMORROW

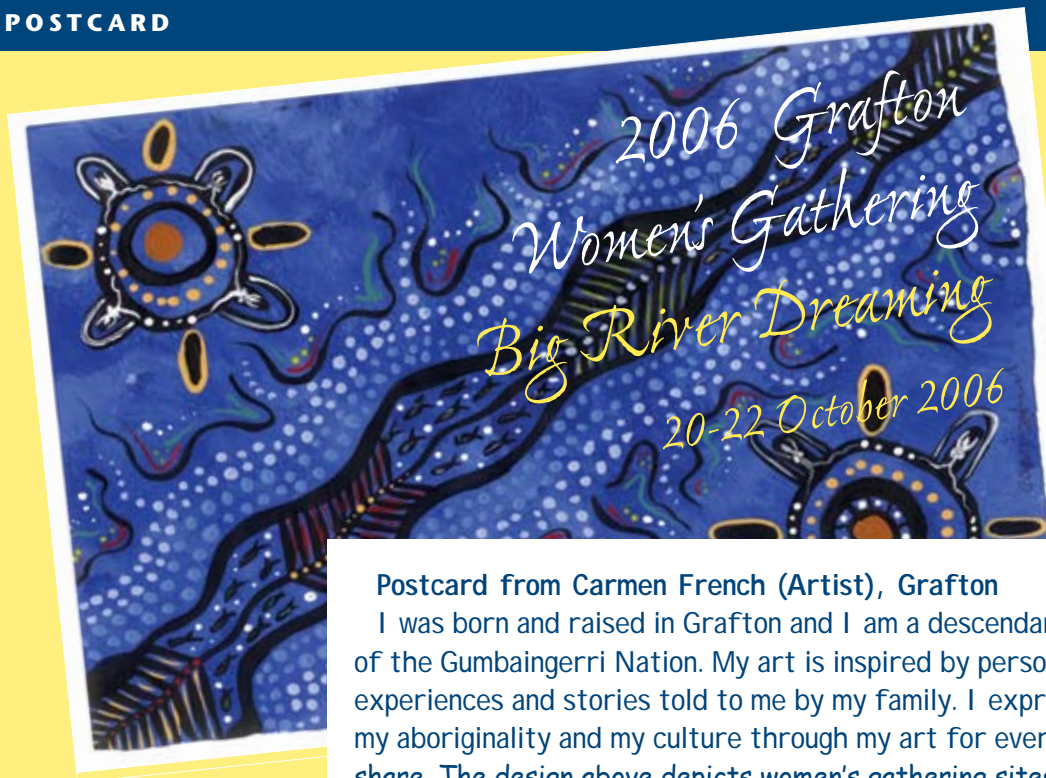
The idea of a WRWD to be devoted each year to honour rural women began at a UN Conference for Women in Beijing in 1995. This was considered a practical way of obtaining recognition and support for the multiple roles of rural women who are mostly farmers and small entrepreneurs.

Rural women make up more than a quarter of the world population. They contribute to the wellbeing of their families and the development of rural economies. Because of their key role in food production and food security, it was decided that the WRWD fall on 15 October – the day before World Food Day.

The purpose of the day is to provide rural women and their organisations with a focal point to: raise the profile of rural women; sensitise government and the public to their crucial, yet largely unrecognised roles; and promote action in their support.

What are you doing to celebrate WRWD this coming October? Contact the RWN to have your event added to our Website Calendar of Events.

For more information on the origins of WRWD Visit: www.woman.ch/home.asp



Postcard from Carmen French (Artist), Grafton

I was born and raised in Grafton and I am a descendant of the Gumbaingerri Nation. My art is inspired by personal experiences and stories told to me by my family. I express my aboriginality and my culture through my art for everyone to enjoy and share. The design above depicts women's gathering sites which are on both sides of the river. They represent the women of the Clarence Valley, both the upper and the lower. The camps surround the river which reflects the colours of the Clarence, the yellow for the wattle trees that line the edge of the river and when in bloom the river comes alive. That's when the mullet runs and the turtles and eels feed off the insects which have been feeding off the wattle blooms that have fallen into the river. The striking red which bursts into colour from the flame trees throughout the Valley reflect the memory of red cedar trees which shadowed in abundance along the river many years ago and the blue colours represent the beautiful Clarence River which flows through the Valley and out to sea at Yamba.



We'd love to hear from you, so why not send us a postcard or photo from where you live, and share your news and views! Post to: *The Country Web*, Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800.

Visit the Rural Women's Network internet site at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rwn



DARING TO DREAM: STORIES FROM INSPIRATIONAL RURAL WOMEN

The *Daring to Dream* book includes 27 stories of leading women from a wide range of rural backgrounds and is a useful resource for anyone

wanting to feel more motivated to follow their passion and achieve their goals. Each story includes individual contact details to encourage informal mentoring. *DTD* costs \$11 incl. GST plus p&h. To order your copy, contact the NSW DPI Bookshop on Toll Free 1800 028 374. (Catalogue No. B302)



If you are a NSW resident and would like *The Country Web* sent free to your home please PRINT your details on the form below and return to: RWN, Locked Bag 21, Orange 2800. *The Country Web* is available on the RWN website. If you have Internet access please help us lower our production costs by cancelling your hardcopy subscription.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

P/CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

☐ I am from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background

☐ I am from a culturally and linguistically diverse background

☐ <20 ☐ 20s ☐ 30s ☐ 40s ☐ 50s ☐ 60s ☐ 70s ☐ 80s+

The Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 obliges the Rural Women's Network to make you aware of the purposes for which we might use the contact details you have supplied us with. This information will be used by RWN for the purposes of disseminating information (including mailouts). Any information supplied by you to RWN will not be disclosed to any other person unless prior consent has been given.