

Buru Immersion 2012

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This immersion was about helping a remote aboriginal community of people from Wujal Wujal “get back to country” - meaning moving back into the bush and living off the land like their ancestors did.

On the second day we hiked from the community of Wujal Wujal to Buru, or as it's known to the wider public, China camp. Buru is the Aboriginal name for it. The hike took us **7 HOURS**, it was very tiring but definitely worth it because the scenery was amazing.

We stayed and work at a place called the healing centre. This is where the people from Wujal Wujal can go to “get back to country.”

The goal of the trip was to put up a fence around the healing centre to stop cattle and stallions running though. We also installed a water tank so people could have showers.

I think the highlight of the trip was going to the

Roaring Meg Falls and The Caterpillar Trail. The Caterpillar Trail was amazing; it was three massive rocks shaped like whales with rapids going through them, running into a lagoon and waterfalls on the other side. The reason



it's called the Caterpillar trail is because the Aboriginals believe back when the land was still soft a family of giant caterpillars walked over the rock and left their tracks in the rocks.

This Immersion links to the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity and the Edmund Rice Touchstone of Justice and Solidarity because it

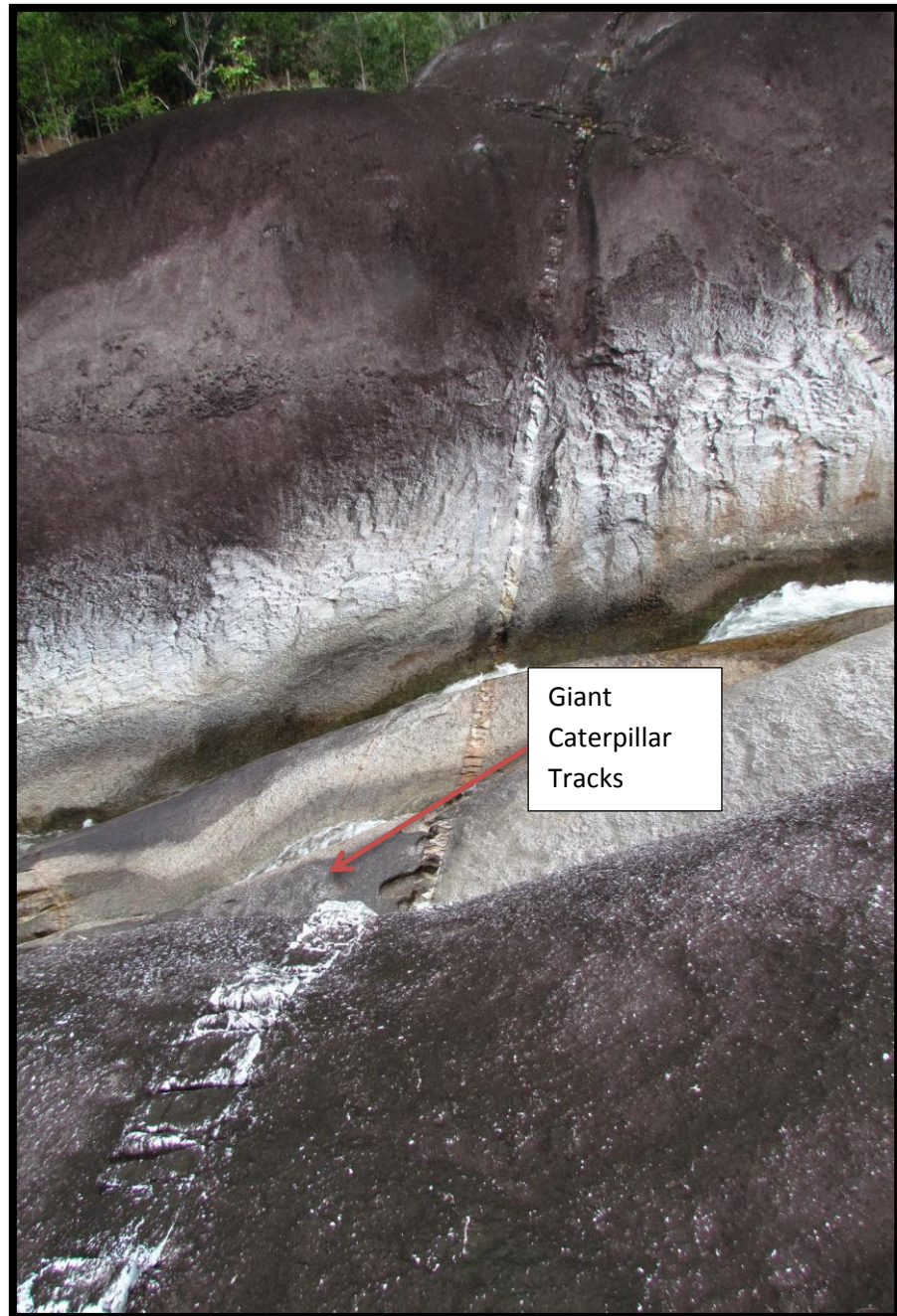
says that “we are all just one human family, whatever national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences.” In a family we all have duties in a household and it is the same in a community, we worked in solidarity with some people of the Buru community to put up the fence for the healing centre.

The experience at Wujal Wujal gave us an opportunity to understand more about aboriginal culture and spirituality. We also gained a better understanding of the struggles of people in this community and how their history has meant that they have been disadvantaged.

Working with the other Nudgee boys and teachers helped to bring some justice for the people of Wujal Wujal, by improving their community facilities. I think that by having a better appreciation of the Aboriginal culture, we can improve each other's lives by a shared understanding.

The Gospel according to Luke was written in about 80-90 AD and focuses on caring for the poor and lowly. With the poor go the marginalised. Luke's Gospel is relevant for the Wujal Wujal immersion because it was about working with the Aboriginal community who have been marginalised throughout Australian history.

Others can get involved by engaging in a range of ways with companies like the Red Earth Connections organisation, which coordinated the Wujal Wujal trip. Students can support and continue to learn about solidarity with the Aboriginal community by 'liking' their Facebook page, visiting their website, volunteering on immersion programs for other schools, or contacting the CEO of the organisation, Mr Arthur Alla.



Giant
Caterpillar
Tracks

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