

The Nudgee Times

By Nick Carbone

13/09/12

The Ntaria and Hermannsburg Experience



On Sunday the 5th of August, 16 Nudgee students and 3 teachers embarked on a plane trip headed for Alice Springs, to begin their Ntaria and Hermannsburg immersion experience. This program was set in place to provide the 19 students and staff involved, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, an opportunity to share in Aboriginal culture and broaden their perspective on Indigenous Australia.

I became involved with this Immersion as I wanted to get a better understanding of Aboriginal culture, their land and the spirituality associated with it, a greater appreciation of all the things I have which many of these people do not have, a better understanding of how and why they live the way they do and broader knowledge of Indigenous stories and their culture. I wanted to help people in much worse conditions than ours and change not only my thoughts about Aboriginality, but also the thoughts of everyone close to me when I returned. Also because the things we did on the Immersion to help others mainly focused in two of the touchstones, 'Liberating Education' and 'Justice and Solidarity.' This was one of the reasons why I got involved with this Immersion. We provided liberating education through visiting the local school in Hermannsburg, playing with the kids, learning with them, teaching things to them about our life and our way of life and also by giving to them many books which will help with their learning experience in the future. We strived to help justice and solidarity on this immersion through helping and standing in solidarity with the school children, the family first women and children, Uncle Bob and the entire Hermannsburg community. Instead of merely just giving to them money or material things, we did this through playing and becoming friends with the school children, playing with the children at family first, listening to Uncle Bob's story and helping share his story, and holding a barbecue, playing and becoming friends with the entire Hermannsburg community.

Our Immersion also focused on the Catholic Social Teachings of 'Solidarity,' 'Care for God's Creation' and 'Option for the Poor and Vulnerable.' Solidarity states that we are called to break the barriers of gender, race, religion, nationality, ethnicity and economic status. We did this through helping the Aboriginal people in that area who are of different race, religion, ethnicity and economic status to us. Care for God's Creation states that the goods of creation were meant

for the common good and that we are responsible for caring for the earth, its resources and all animals. During this Immersion we learnt to do this, like the Indigenous people have been doing for many years. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable states that we must preferentially respect the poor, help those that are most vulnerable and give them the most urgent claim. We did this through helping the education of the poor children in Hermannsburg, respecting, helping and becoming friends with all the Aboriginals we met, and through helping Uncle Bob and Tex to share their story with us.

I got involved during the Immersion through going out of my comfort zone, doing things I wouldn't normally do, helping wherever I could and participating in everything. This made me feel good because of the thanks and respect I got in return, and also the feeling that I had helped someone in some way.

During our visit to the school, I became friends with many of the year 1's and 2's. Also, I became friends with the kids as Family First, Tex, Uncle Bob and some Aboriginal ladies who came along with us. The main spokespeople from the group were Tex, Lora, Uncle Bob and Uncle Bob's nephew. We learnt many things on this Immersion, especially from Tex. On the way to Palm Valley he told us about the land, "Everything is alive and connected, the plants, the animals, the earth, the humans and the entire Universe."

During this amazing Immersion, I learnt so many things, met and befriended many new people, helped Indigenous communities and people, and grew as a person. I believe that I achieved all the things I hoped to get out of this Immersion. I gained a better understanding of Aboriginal culture, their land and their spirituality.

Another learning I hadn't anticipated was developing a greater appreciation of all the things I have which many of these people do not have, a better understanding of how and why they live the way they do, and broader knowledge of Indigenous stories and their culture. I also helped many people and immensely changed my thoughts about Indigenous people, and the thoughts of others close to me.



Places visited During Immersion

- * Alice Springs
- * Hermannsburg
- * Palm Valley
- * Kings Canyon
- * Ayers Rock

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful



Caption describing picture or graphic.

newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed inter-

nally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or

vendors.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which

you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.



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Microsoft

Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Your Address Line 4

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: someone@example.com

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Your business tag line here.

We're on the Web!
example.com

Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names

of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.