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# Immersion Ntaria

AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR 10 IMMERSION EXPERIENCE.  
LEARN ABOUT 'THE NTARIA EXPERIENCE' HERE.

*Every senior at Nudgee College has most likely participated in Year 10 Immersion. During 2013, it was the class of 2015's go of experiencing some of the interesting options Nudgee had to offer. This article highlights and outlines the 2013 'Ntaria Experience,' written by one of the participants.*

## Ntaria, the Aboriginal name for Hermannsburg

Ntaria is located within 150km of Alice Springs, Central Australia. Home to almost a thousand people, mainly indigenous Australians, this town started off as an Aboriginal mission, established by two Lutheran missionaries from Germany. Coincidentally named after a town from Germany, the original Hermannsburg mission still lies within fencing in the centre of the town. The 21 Nudgee boys slept in one of the old buildings of this original precinct for one night while working with the school and childcare.

1902, the famous Aboriginal artist, Albert Namatjira, was born in Hermannsburg. Not

long from the town lay Namatjira's house, which he hand built on a block of land, soon housing his whole family, made up of his wife and 7 children.

*"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."*

LUKE 6:20

Looking around the house was one of the first things done on the 2013 trip, with boys astonished at the fact that 9 people lived in such a small household. A mere 50m from Namatjira's house took you to the entrance of Palm Valley, where the boys stayed for their first two nights. Palm Valley is home to hundreds of unique palm trees, all within an astonishing gorge that did no less than amaze. This undoubtedly came as one of the best sights seen on the trip.

Insert picture here.



*'Justice and Solidarity' is one of the four touchstones of EREA, and it explains that we strive for justice for all, and that we stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself. This is what we strived for during the Ntaria Immersion, as we were committed to serve justice for the more marginalised people of Hermannsburg. By helping the child care and providing help to some of the children and teachers, we followed this touchstone with spirit, and there is no doubt that we found enjoyment in helping less fortunate people.*





# Highlights

*The best sights, people and experiences on the trip.*

The sights that were seen on this adventure were spectacular. Sprinkled amongst the large arid land were random acreages full of white, yellow and purple flowers, and the redness of the rocks could never be missed as you drive through the ranges. Among those, there were many occasions where we were faced with chewing the roots of unique plants and learning about how some bushes could be used as medicine.

Over the first few days, we had seen dingoes, camels & brumbies, and it was on the Thursday that we almost missed spotting the donkey that stood metres away from us while driving back to Alice. And among the visits to Palm Valley, Gosse Bluff and Kings Canyon, the people we met made it that much better. Hermannsburg was home to a community that at first would seem, "less developed," but once meeting them, we realized that we're all human, and this came as one of the main lessons; that judgement can be so misleading. We met the principal, the teachers and of course the

*"I'm still learning. We all are. Because as soon as you stop learning, you become dumb."*

TEX O'NEILL

students. Among them were Ahalena, Latifa, Jade, Hartley, Karina, Serena, Christiani and Esther, all children I spent some time with, and somehow learnt their names! It seems amazing that these kids live with some of the biggest smiles on their faces even in the condition they're in. A day at school with them concluded with the Community BBQ, where the most bonding and fun came from. The kids didn't seem to care about the BBQ as much as they seemed to care for getting on our shoulders, and after a night full of some of the most work we'd done for the whole trip, our shoulders were badly aching. It was worth it all.

It was the fourth day of the trip that we were landed with the news that one of the troop carriers, the last one in the group, had rolled and crashed on the way to Kings Canyon. The remaining group continued to King's Canyon, where they waited anxiously for news. As they came together, the trailer was unpacked in a matter of minutes, and everything was getting sorted for dinner and sleep, regardless of what actually happened in the crash. With true Nudgee spirit, the group was supportive of each other and continued to stay in a positive attitude. It is no lie that those couple of days, the group were put through a real-life experience and learnt something not many immersions would normally offer. What some would call a disaster, I believe that this Immersion did its job in an effective yet unique way.

Picture?

Learnt anything from the Aborigines? Social Teachings?

How can the help? Racial and stereotypes, close the gap

## RELATION TO LUKE'S GOSPEL



A quote from Luke's Gospel (6:37), reads '**Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven,**' explaining that although it can be so easy to make judgements or something early, it is not until you learn more about that thing, whether that be a person or town, until you can make decisions. Treat those around you as equals, and treat them as you would like to be treated.

### Social Teachings Relation

## An Outline of the 2013 Journey

The trip started with the flight to Alice Springs, where the boys landed, hired the troop carriers and fetched a feed at MacDonald's. After packing all the groceries for the next week, they headed to Palm Valley. After a quick visit to Namatjira's house, and two nights at Palm Valley, they left for Hermannsburg where they stayed a night, and next were headed for Kings Canyon. After checking out Gosse Bluff on the way, the boys found out soon after that the third troopy had been involved in a crash. As explained above, even with something as unexpected and unfortunate as this event, the boys rose to the occasion and embraced the task with true Nudgee spirit. It was indeed a successful trip, and even with the occurrence of the crash, I believe that the Immersion did very well, in a very unique matter.



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