



WAANYI

Wire

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<http://www.waanyi.org.au>

Show me your world!

It's all about life and different worlds, opportunities and views, it's about fun and learning, and it's about what's possible!



That's the annual Show Me Your World Tour, hosted by Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation, and offering local kids great opportunities to see and experience a range of activities outside of their

community as a reward for good behaviour and attendance at school.

Every year 6 or 7 child in Doomadgee has this opportunity, and



it's hoped one day to extend the initiative to other Gulf communities such as Normanton, Mornington Island, Burketown and Karumba.

Tour coordinators Charlene Cressbrook and Kerrie Foxwell-Norton said the first tour in 2011 was an overwhelming success, with teachers, community members, students – the Doomadgee school and broader community – and it has grown from there.

Kids who have attended share their experiences with fellow students, families and the entire community while all reports from Doomadgee State School indicate the tour has had a positive impact on school attendance and attitude to education.

The short term benefits of this program are immediately evident and promising – the children grow remarkably in confidence about themselves and their future.



Welcome to this special edition of the Waanyi Wire featuring the Show Me Your World Tours from 2011 to 2014.

The Show Me Your World Tour is a program brought about by the Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation which provides most of the financial and administrative support.

The tour has taken lots of children from different tribes.

The Tour also receives support from Doomadgee State School and Griffith University.

Doomadgee State School decide which children attend based on attitude and attendance.

In 2011, Virgin Airlines sponsored the flights from Townsville to Brisbane.

In 2011, 2012 and 2013 the Tour also received funding from the Gulf Area Social and Community Development Trust. Lots of people and places support the tour too including MMG who have provided flights from Century to Townsville.

To find out more you can speak to any children or parents who have already been on the tour!

In Doomadgee you could speak to the school or Dawn Aplin.

Or you can call Charlene Cressbrook, our new Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation Community and Social Development Project Officer, on 07 3129 6777.



Doomadgee students in the wave pool at Dreamworld.



From left, John Gregory, Nehemiah Watt, Shennika Doomadgee and Tegan Doomadgee practising before their Byron lesson with Surfing Australia.

Students see another world



By SUSAN FORDE
A GROUP of primary school children from the remote north-west Queensland community of Doomadgee travelled to south-east Queensland earlier this month to experience city and coastal life. The camp for 12 children, called the 'You Show Me Your World, I'll Show You Mine' tour, was organised as part of the community social initiatives of the Waanyi Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

Camp co-ordinator Dr Kerrie Foxwell, who works on the Waanyi Nation language project and at Griffith University's School of Humanities, said the tour was designed to show the children what opportunities existed for them in the outside world.

The camp included visits to three south east Queensland primary schools for a cultural exchange, a tour of 98.9FM Murri Country, surfing lessons in Byron Bay, visits from star Gold Coast Titans players, a marine education afternoon, a trip to Dreamworld and an indigenous 'heroes' day.

"The idea was to introduce the kids to a range of education, employment and training opportunities that are not available locally," Dr Foxwell said.

"We knew that for these kids to take advantage of these opportunities, they need to attend school so the camp was

designed as a reward for their attendance at school.

"The group of 12 was chosen because they were the most regular attendants and, because we're planning on running the program again next year, the tour worked as both a reward for attending school and an incentive to continue doing so.

"There are university scholarships available for Indigenous school leavers but, unless we can address numeracy and literacy at an early stage, and help kids to attend school, they're never going to be able to take advantage of the opportunities that are there."

Chaperones

The kids were accompanied on the camp by two teachers from the Doomadgee State School, Faith Wallace and Peter Teagle, and three community chaperones Dawn Aplin, Lila Cairns and Darlene Walden.

Ms Aplin, who is a director of Waanyi Nation's commercial company Northern Project Contracting, said the children had thoroughly enjoyed themselves on their visits to Brisbane city, Stradbroke Island, Byron Bay and Hastings Point in northern New South Wales.

"The idea was to get them out of the community and tell them to go to high school and, if they want to come down to the city in the future, they might feel a bit more comfortable about doing that after

this camp," Ms Aplin said.

"They enjoyed the surfing lessons the most and the trip to Dreamworld. Meeting with the Titans players was also great - you could see the kids were so excited."

Ms Aplin said she and the other community chaperones also benefited from the tour. "I loved spending time with the kids - these are kids that we see around the community but we never really spend any time with them. The older boys were looking after the younger boys, it was great to see," she said.

"It was just good to get to know them a lot better."

The tour was supported by funds from the Gulf Area Social Development Trust, Waanyi Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Northern Project Contracting, Griffith University's School of Humanities, Virgin Australia Airlines, MMG Mines and Doomadgee State School.

Dr Foxwell said the aim was to hold the camp every year so children from Doomadgee had a consistent incentive to be at school.

"We kept saying to the kids 'these things can all be a part of your world in the future'. So many of them were surprised I think by the welcome they received from the other school kids, and from organisations we visited," he said.

"They didn't expect to be so embraced by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people down here."



New Titans recruit Beau Champion, left, and fellow new recruit Jamal Idris came to a barbecue with the school group and carried out interviews for Titans TV.



Former National Rugby League (NRL) players Preston Campbell, left, and Dean Widders with community chaperone Lila Cairns.



Nehemiah jumps for joy in front of the Tower of Terror at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast.



2012



Here is what happens...

As soon as the children land in Brisbane, they are taken up to Mt Coot-tha where they can see the entire city and get a sense of where they are. We stay in the middle of the city at a place where we can see all the bright lights.

We meet with a local Jagera elder Uncle Des Sandy who welcomes us to his country.

We spend three full days in the city, then head over to Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) for three days where Ngugi elder Uncle Bobby Anderson welcomes the children to country.

The children also visit other primary schools where they give a 'Life In Doomadgee' presentation and the schools we visit show life where they live.

We also visit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses like the radio station 98.9FM and places such as Suncorp Stadium.

Then we start to go south to Dreamworld and for surfing lessons with Burra Jurra, which is an Indigenous Learn to Surf run by the Arakwal people of Byron Bay.

Every day is jam packed with adventure and each night the children and adults sleep very well.

Wherever we go, the children meet positive Aboriginal role models and the tour is underpinned by a really simple message: Go to school.

Get your child in the habit of going to school and they will be eligible to go too when their turn in Grade 6 or 7 comes.

2013



2014



2011 Participants

- Nehemiah Watt
- Jay Jay Taylor
- Isaiah Walden
- Stefan O’Keefe
- Tristan Toby
- Ezekial King
- John Gregory
- Martin Evans
- Loretta Gilbert
- Tegan Doomadgee
- Shennika Doomadgee
- Emma Roughsey

Chaperones: Peter Teagle (DSS), Faith Wallace (DSS), Darlene Gilbert, Dawn Aplin, Lila Cairns

Tour Managers: Kerrie Foxwell-Norton, Pekeri Ruska

Tour Filmmaker: Niels



2012 Participants

- Hakeem Peter
- Alexander George
- Ishmael Douglas
- Cassandra Diamond
- Nicola Diamond
- Jardeena Hookey
- Nicole Go
- Schnynada Karkadoo
- Robyn Peter
- Tinika Johnny
- Shineykwa King
- Angela Walden

Chaperones: Simon Calder (DSS), Bec Goodhew (DSS), Glennette Diamond, Davina Baker

Tour Manager: Kerrie Foxwell-Norton

Tour Filmmaker: Rhianna Malezer



2013 Participants

- Gene Foster King
- Slade Peter
- Kostya Peter
- Zipporah Aplin
- Lynikka Ah Fat
- Rikeah Ah Fat
- Della Rose Gallagher
- Clarise Foster
- Jayvina Dick
- Sidney Go
- Ah Teisha Hookey
- Lakeisha Walden
- Rae Evans

Chaperones: Simon Calder (DSS), Kylie Cue (DSS), Laurel Douglas, Dawn Aplin, Shirley Chong, Tour Manager: Kerrie Foxwell-Norton
 Filmmaker: Rhianna Malezer



2014 Participants

- La'Schaya Body
- Rowshaune Diamond
- Bryher Foster
- Naomi Foster-King
- Zaccur Walden
- Shakaya George
- Nakaya Ned
- Elliot Aplin
- Selward Aplin
- Kerriane Corporal
- Timara Douglas
- Logan Johnny
- Samuel Johnston



Teachers: Kylie Cue, Dean Lannen
 Teachers Aide: Rosemary Foster
 Community Volunteers: Rhonda Jacob, Vernon Ned



Indigenous 'heroes' make the days

A big part of Show Me Your World is meeting home-grown 'heroes' who live and work in the big smoke...here are just some of those who have supported the tour over the years...

Jason Campbell is a Kalkadoon Indigenous man from Mt Isa and has been involved in performing and teaching hip hop and break dancing for the past ten years.

He's been involved with the Show Me Your World Tour for two years now, in between 'living it and doing it', and he loves catching up with family.

"I was down last year and the year before with that Indigenous Hero's Day," he said. "They're all my

people; I find them, they're my family. I was around the area and was able to go and meet them over at Byron Bay when they were surfing.

"I do hip hop and break dance, my whole thing is about being involved with dancing and working.

"I've lived down here in New

South Wales now for almost 20 years and beyond that I've been involved with dancing and the arts since I was a teenager in Mt Isa.

"I had opportunities to give it and go further with it so when I came down to New South Wales I grabbed it with two hands."



Performance artist and musician Fred Leone is excited to be involved in the Show Me Your World Tour's annual Indigenous Heroes Day...even if his initial involvement was accidental!

"I was heading to lunch one day from where I work Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) when I spotted a deadly group of Murri kids and teachers walking by," he says. "When they said Doomadgee I started telling them the names of all my mob up there."

He said he has since taken the opportunity to talk about his life and making choices.

"I talked about how making good choices can change your life beyond your wildest dreams," he said. "I'm involved in SMYW

because there is nothing more important to me than nurturing

the next generation of Aboriginal leaders. I want to share my story and journey to inspire our young people, there's still a lot that needs to be done in our

communities and it's good to see that there are strong deadly black boys and girls out there putting in hard work and showing potential to be the leaders of tomorrow."



CEO of Brisbane Indigenous Media Association's radio station 98.9FM Tiga Bayles says he is always pleased to host the Show Me Your World Tour.

"The students love it," he says. "Every single group who have come here for years and years have just loved it.

"It's quite unique in that they get to work in a professional media organisation that's run by Aboriginal people.

"It broadens their world view when they come here."

98.9FM, formerly 4AAA, is based in their own building in West End where they get to go 'on-air' (some of them have even been interviewed on Tiga's show 'Let's Talk!') in radio and television studio, they write their own scripts and work with professional presenters and technicians.

"At first we find they're nearly always shy, by the end of it they're very confident and having fun," he said.

"What it means is they get hands-on experience on all our latest high-tech digital equipment and most of them are a natural with that because it's all hands-on.

"They see a broad range of job opportunities, career opportunities, and they feel very comfortable because it's a black environment and it's culturally safe for them to be here.

"It also encourages them to finish school and possibly do further studies, particularly at Griffith Uni.

"We have got a strong partnership with Griffith Uni and have for a long time, so these young students could actually do a Certificate III in Media here and then go onto Griffith if they wanted to.

"It depends on where they go to high school and what happens from there, but it just shows the opportunities that are available. We hope these inspire them to aspire to be the best they can be."



2014 tour DVD out soon!

As well as building a career in film design, Rhianna Malezer has spent the past two and a half years working as a freelance film and documentary maker for Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation.

“It first started off just a bit of work experience, a bit of something new for me to do, and I just love doing it so much and I love meeting kids that come from different years and following their journey,” Rhianna said.

“So, I’ve just stuck with it every year and I really enjoy it.

“I guess to the kids it’s important in that it opens up a bit more opportunities to them and there’s a bit of exposure to what else is out there.

“And it’s also supposed to be like a springboard for them to go to boarding school in the sense of having a decent amount of time away from family and community to kind of break the ice and show them that it doesn’t have to be that scary and that there are a lot of support networks in different places down here.

“And we just have so much fun,

that’s the main thing, I think.”

During her time with Waanyi Aboriginal Corporation Rhianna has twice travelled to Adel’s Grove (Far North Queensland) to film and document the annual Waanyi Language Camp.

“Working with communities and Indigenous people and doing documentary-style material is definitely a new path that opened for me in my career,” she said.

“One of the greatest things for me making this documentary is hearing from the teachers and from Kerrie how much the kids like watching the DVDs and that is the main reason why I do it because I get so much feedback saying how much the DVDs mean for the kids.

“The DVDs are great to have especially because they play a huge role in helping to support the program and the kids who might come next year.

“They also help to get the



community excited about the program and I love hearing about that.”

Rhianna said she looked forward to continuing to film the progress of the ‘Show Me Your World’ tour and will hopefully be travelling to Doomadgee later this year to capture interviews and assist with further documenting the Waanyi language and culture.

