Nungalinya College

Annual Report 2012

Empowering Indigenous Christians
Having now been at the College for over two years, it is encouraging to see the progress the College has made in that time. We now have a much clearer sense of being one College, with one purpose which is training and empowering Indigenous Christians. This is reflected in our new logo and motto.

The organizational structure of the College has also changed quite significantly. We no longer have three distinct departments at the College. Instead we have one academic department with different courses, with each course having a coordinator. There have also been major improvements in the academic management of the College.

Another important change was the difficult decision to make our Finance Manager redundant and to appoint a CPA qualified Chief Financial Officer. This has proved to be an excellent move and we now have a much more efficient and proactive approach to our financial management.

The building of the Media Centre has been a great boost to the College. It was completed on time and within budget. We have been meeting for our morning chapel services in the Performance Space. With increased numbers of students in 2013, it was very fortunate we had this larger space available as we would not have fitted in the old chapel.

In 2012, for the first time, we were able to have a crèche for the children of students. This made it possible for younger families to come and study at the College. While it creates new levels of complexity in the College community it is delightful to have the children here.

We are very encouraged to have the wonderful problem in 2013 of having to close off enrolments for some courses because we have more students wanting to come and study than we can fit.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the College in 2013 we are very conscious of God’s sustaining hand supporting the College through good times and bad. I pray that we might continue to remember that Nungalinya is Christ’s College and we partner with Him in His work in Indigenous communities.

Dr Jude Long (Principal)
The Board of the College consists of four (4) representatives from each of the partner churches, at least two of whom must be Indigenous, as well as two Associate members. The Board undertook some Governance Training and plans to continue further training in 2013.

The Board met four times during 2012.

The Executive comprises the Chair of the Board, and a representative from each of the member churches and includes the Treasurer and Secretary of the Board. They meet with the Principal on a monthly basis.

**Key Decisions of the Board for 2012:**

- To regularly build governance training into Board Meetings.
- Approval of a Strategic Property Plan to deal with the problem of uncertified and aging buildings.
- Approval of a Strategic Planning process to be undertaken in 2013
- To explore the possibility of offering more courses out in communities with a view to a pilot program in 2013.
- Rebranding of the College to be undertaken
- Student Representation on the Board was defined as for a 2 year term, and appointments would alternate between the member church students.
While we continued to have a number of staff changes in 2012, we now have a very good, committed and capable team. One of the key goals of the College is to wherever possible employ Indigenous staff. Our aim is to give them opportunity to study, develop more skills, and quite probably go on to other better opportunities. Of course we would be sad to lose them, but this is another way of providing training that we can utilise. Currently we have two young Indigenous admin staff who are doing a great job and undertaking study to develop further.

One big loss to the College was the retirement of Rev Rob Haynes after 24 years of working in the Top End, with over 10 years at Nungalinya. We greatly miss his experience and wisdom. One strategy to develop the cross cultural experience of non-Indigenous staff that we used in 2012 was to send staff on a learning placement to Groote Eylandt for 6 months. Liz and Terry McCoy and Wayne Oldfield and Mandy Jones (all CMS missionaries) found this a very valuable learning time. They are continuing to try to learn Aboriginal language and further develop their cross-cultural understanding.

One major issue still facing the College is the need to recruit or train more Indigenous teachers. This is difficult for a whole variety of reasons, but is a key strategy for the College as it looks to the future.
COURSES AND STUDENTS

During 2012, we offered two courses – the Certificate I in Education and Skills Development which we call Foundation Studies, and the Certificate III in Theology and Ministry. We had a total of 214 students for the year which was a small decrease from 231 students in 211. This reflects the closure of the Creating Indigenous Futures Program. However, we have had a significant increase in enrolments in 2013 reflecting increased confidence in the College.

Foundation Studies

The two literacy and numeracy courses that had previously run in the Theology Department and the Family and Community Studies Department amalgamated at the beginning of 2012. The major difference was the use of the Bible as the “technical text” used for literacy teaching.

As part of the funding we receive to bring students to the College, at least 50% of the course has to be taught in distance mode. One strategy to manage this has been a program called Listen-to-Read developed for Nungalinya by Voice for Humanity in the USA and funded by the Genesis Foundation and Yajilarra Trust. This uses 50 Bible stories to gradually improve literacy. Students receive a memory chip for their mobile phones to access the audio component. The students love it. One person out in community recently said “people are buying mobiles just so they can listen to the Bible!” There is also a small solar powered device to use in groups, but generally students prefer using their phones.

Foundation Studies also provides students with an introduction to the Bible and the tools they will need to undertake further study.
Certificate III in Theology and Ministry

In 2012, we introduced a major change to the way that the Cert III in Theology was being taught. It is quite a long award and many students were struggling to complete all the units. Partly due to funding requirements that meant we had to teach 50% of each unit in distance mode, we restructured the course so that units with similar content were clustered together. This means there was a lot less assessment for students to complete and there was a more integrated approach to the course.

At the same time, the decision was made that the course would be done in a particular order, so that students started with Old Testament and New Testament prior to moving on to electives. Many students had done subjects in random order and appeared confused about how all these different units fitted together. This clustered and ordered approach now provides a clear and integrated course that will assist students to progress through the biblical material and then use that foundation in addressing other topics such as worship, pastoral care, domestic violence etc.

An additional benefit of these changes is that students will progress through the course much more quickly. As a result we were very excited to have 7 students graduate with their Cert III in 2012. We had a wonderful graduation ceremony as well as a farewell to Rob in September. It is anticipated that more students will complete their studies at the end of 2013.

2012 Certificate III in Theology and Ministry Graduates
The highlight of 2012 regarding property was the construction of a new Media Production Centre. Funding for 2/3 of the cost was received from the Federal Government. The new facility includes a classroom, performance space, office, recording studio and production room. The performance space provides a venue for our daily chapel services which also give students the opportunity to learn how to speak using microphones and perform musical and other items. In 2013 the first course, the Certificate II in Creative Industries (Media and Discipleship) started and it is planned to add the Certificate II in Music in 2014.

In contrast to the new building, many of the College’s other buildings are in need of major repair. A property plan has been developed to gradually renovate or replace buildings too far gone over the next 5 years. However, major funding is needed in order to meet the accommodation needs for our projected student numbers.

Part of this process is to gain the necessary certification for existing buildings and ensure that all buildings are safe for use. This has meant a number of renovations were required including the building of ramps for disabled access.

This work has been greatly helped by a number of volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to the renovations.
Archellus Lim commenced as our Chief Financial Officer in October 2012. Archie is a qualified CPA and has a background in auditing. He has already improved our accounting practices and is developing policies and procedures for the finance area.

The College reported a net surplus of $246,815 for the year ended 31 December 2012, low than last year’s revised net surplus of $444,909.

During the year, the College received funding for the construction of the Media Centre. This created a mismatch between income and expenses which explains the net surplus reported for the year. Without this capital grant, the College would have operated at a net loss. However, the College remains financially stable with sufficient cash to cover all liabilities at a ratio of 3:1.

* Audited Financial Statements are available on request.

**Fundraising**

Income generated from donations and bequests amounted to $363,513 for the year. When other income such as dividends are included, the total fundraising income for 2012 was $369,469.
LOOKING AHEAD

Certificate II Media and Discipleship
The course has now started. It is fantastic to see the work the students are producing. The new Media Centre opens up many new possibilities. In 2014, we will be adding a new course, the Certificate II in Music. Many Aboriginal Christians are writing music in their own language and this course will be assist them to produce professional recordings and develop their musical skills.

iPads as Educational Tools
In 2013 we started using a class set of iPads. Many students have never touched a computer. We are finding that the iPads are much easier for students than desktop computers. They are much more direct and intuitive. Students really enjoy using them. At present they are mostly being used in our literacy and numeracy classes but we are exploring how they can be used in the Cert III in Theology in the future.

New Unit
We have taken the first step in dealing with uncertified buildings. One unit has been demolished and construction of a new unit is expected to begin in June 2013.
Nungalinya College

Help us to continue to Empower Indigenous Christians through training and employment. Please join us and further our mission through your prayers and financial support.

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