

# Halls Creek

## Better Life Project

### NEWSLETTER

*Good stories happen in Halls Creek every day.*

September 2010 (Edition II)

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## 1. Girls from Oz – Melbourne Visit

On Sunday August 29, the day after the successful Halls Creek Music Festival, 12 girls from Halls Creek District High School departed sunny Halls Creek for chilly Melbourne.

The girls were accompanied by three staff members from the school and two from the Shire's Youth Services including Jaydene Long, who is undertaking a traineeship with the Australian School of Performing Arts. The excursion was an extension of the Girls from Oz activities taking place in Halls Creek throughout 2010.



The aim of the Girls from Oz project is to engage Indigenous girls and young women in Halls Creek – both within and outside of school – by using an innovative performing arts education program to create education, training and employment pathways. Girls from Oz utilises the 25 years of expertise and experience of the Australian School of Performing Arts (ASPA) team to deliver performing arts workshops encompassing song, dance, drama, language and storytelling.

Kylie Lee-Archer, Vice-Chair of the Girls from Oz said "The girls, ranging in age from 12 to 15, flew into Melbourne for an exciting week of activities including visits to the Melbourne Zoo, Scienceworks and the National Sports Museum at the MCG. A highlight of the week was shopping at the Melbourne Markets and along Bridge Road! The number of people and amount of traffic on Melbourne's streets, as well as Melbourne's famous trams, were a sight to behold for the girls at the beginning of the week, but in only a short time they became seasoned travellers.

The girls were hosted by Australian Girls' Choir families. While many identified differences in lifestyle, between the remote East Kimberley community and the suburbs of Melbourne, it was also clear that connections were formed easily and many common interests shared.

As well as playing tourist, the girls participated in a rehearsal with members of the Australian Girls' Choir, attended the choir's Gala Spring Concert and even did some performing of their own.

The Governor General – who visited the girls in Halls Creek in May – said she was thrilled to be able to invite the girls to a morning tea. The girls could hardly believe their luck at being able to meet with Her Excellency Ms Bryce for the second time in just three short months and performed three songs from their growing repertoire for Ms Bryce and her guests."

Kylie said that when the girls return to Halls Creek in the first week of November they will work towards their goal of being one of the small group chosen to travel to Sydney for activities towards the end of the school year.



Halls Creek Better Life Project (BLP) aims to improve services to the people of Halls Creek. The WA State Government (through the Department of Housing) funds the project however the BLP itself is not a government agency, NGO, Aboriginal organisation or private enterprise. The BLP facilitates community outreach, cross community engagement, communication and cooperation. The BLP coordinates interagency and community meetings and works closely with the Shire of Halls Creek and Wunan Foundation Inc. The BLP initiates projects and programs with local people, for local people, focusing on tangible outcomes of benefit to the whole community.

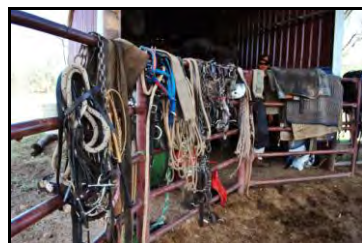




## 2. Creating a Pathway To Employment....

Helen and Roy Wilson are two well known local identities with a real passion for helping the youth of Halls Creek.

Their latest project is facilitating Certificate II Agriculture (Beef Production), with 10 participants, which is an accredited TAFE course, being held out at Burks Park.



### Components of the course include:

- Maintain livestock and water supplies
- Ride horses and care for equipment
- Handle young horses
- Install, maintain and repair fences
- Maintain property and infrastructures



## 3. Cape York Tour 2010

### A first step towards a united Aboriginal leadership for change in the East Kimberley.

Resultant of the establishment of the Jawun strategy in the East Kimberley (April 2010), the Cape York Institute invited Ian Trust (Wunan Foundation Inc) to facilitate a group of East Kimberley Leaders to visit Cape York between 6 – 11 September as a way of sharing ideas and building on existing relationships.

Virginia O'Neil, Robyn Long, Bonnie Edwards, Rose Stretch and Rikeisha Rivers are 5 women from Halls Creek who accompanied Ian Trust on this trip.

The tour was an opportunity to bring together, through shared experience, a diverse mix of people and interests from across the East Kimberley with the purpose of creating new ideas, confidence, and relationships that assist participants with their work in our region. Jawun have committed four secondees per year to support this agenda, with the possibility of longer term secondments.

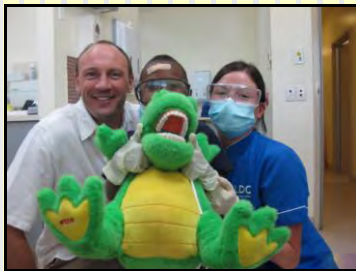
The Cape York Tour seeks to achieve three important objectives for the East Kimberley:

- Build shared understanding and relationships across a diverse group of East Kimberley leaders.
- Start to develop priorities to guide the work of the Jawun strategy in the East Kimberley.
- Consider how East Kimberley leaders can support each other to make change in our communities.



Mr Ian Trust





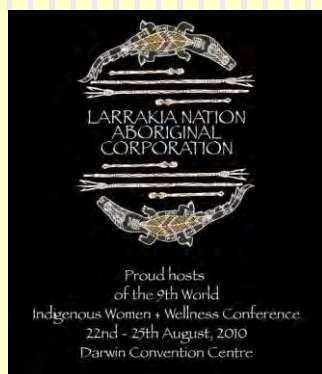
KDT & Mascot



KDT at work



KDT at work



Lunch by the harbour



Lunch by the harbour

## 4. Kimberley Dental Team Visit Halls Creek

The Kimberley Dental Team returned to Halls Creek and communities in August 2010 and provided 3 weeks of dental care and dental health education. As well as treating people at the hospital dental clinic, members of the team travelled by helicopter to Balgo (twice), Ringers Soak, Yiyili, Warmun, Crocodile Hole and back across the Leopold Ranges to Gibb River community. At the invitation of the communities KDT coordinators John and Jan Owen had spent 1 ½ days at Kalumburu and 1 day at Gibb River setting up the dental clinic and providing dental treatment before flying on to Halls Creek to meet the volunteer team travelling down from Kununurra.

In all 408 people were treated during this August trip and many children were screened. This brings the total number of people screened or treated by KDT to over 1,200. Many of these people have suffered years of severe and chronic dental disease that compromises their general health. It is often overlooked that a simple regime of regular and careful brushing of the teeth and gums prevents dental decay and gum disease (bleeding gums and slack teeth) from progressing. KDT has distributed in excess of 2,500 toothbrush and paste packs in the Kimberley to encourage better dental hygiene.

A return trip is planned for May 2011.

**John & Jan Owen**

**Directors and Joint Coordinators,  
Kimberley Dental Team Inc**  
(h) 08 9277 3395: (w) 0407 998 215  
[www.kimberleydentalteam.com](http://www.kimberleydentalteam.com)



*Thankyou KDT*

## 5. 9<sup>th</sup> World Indigenous Women & Wellness Conference

11 women from Halls Creek joined with 600 Indigenous women from around the world to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> World Indigenous Women & Wellness Conference held in Darwin at the Convention Centre in late August 2010.



Bonnie Edwards with  
Larrakia Traditional Dancers

Bonnie Edwards (pictured left) was one of the attendees and returned to Halls Creek with mixed emotions regarding the conference.

"It was great to be there, share the cultures of all the different nations and to meet other Indigenous women from around the world. I felt we talked about problems but not about any solutions. It would have been better to break into groups and workshop solutions to problems so we could return to Halls Creek with some new ideas" said Bonnie.

*The Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation (LNAC) have a deep commitment to evidence-based best practice, generating new knowledge and facilitating intellectual dialogue for the express purpose of improving the life quality of the Larrakia and Indigenous peoples from other nations. To advance these commitments, LNAC undertake research and deliver a series of programs. Their work has been acknowledged locally, across the Northern Territory and at both a national and international level. In October/November 2008 LNAC's important work was presented at the prestigious 8<sup>th</sup> World Indigenous Women and Wellness Conference held in Calgary, Canada. It was a great honour for the work of LNAC to be presented and acknowledged at this significant event.*

*With the support of an Australian delegation and the Board of Directors of the LNAC, Larrakia woman Tanya Williams put in a successful bid to host the 9<sup>th</sup> biannual conference.*

*At a ceremony in Calgary, Tanya was entrusted with a sacred object to bring back to Larrakia country. Tanya returned to Australia and buried the sacred object straight away with her cousin Dorrie-Anne Raymond. The sacred object was buried under a milk wood tree on Larrakia land. Following tradition, this sacred object will be passed to the next hosts of 10th World Indigenous Women and Wellness Conference. LNAC recognises her as an ambassador of the Larrakia people.*

Source: [www.larrakia.com](http://www.larrakia.com)



## 6. Meet Michele Seymour....

### A person of exceptional talent....

**Michele Seymour** is the newest team member at Better Life Project.

Michele has come to the Better Life Project as an IT officer for our organisation until the end of the year. With a background in Web Design and Photography, she has been designing web sites since the age of 12 (...16 years now!)

Her technological skills have been gained through her studies, as well as a wide variety of work environments, from website design and development, production management, advertising and marketing, as well as retail and sales.

She has a degree in Internet Studies, a Diploma in Mass Communication and a Certificate 4 in Small Business Management and she also runs her own online t-shirt business.

Michele has a great enthusiasm for helping and up skilling other people in IT and getting them excited about all things technological.



Michele is most likely to be found around the place pursuing her passion for photography with a camera in her hands...



## 7. By the way...

**Check out the new Music Festival Website!**

[www.hallscreekmusicfestival.com](http://www.hallscreekmusicfestival.com)

[www.nguyuruwaaringarrem.com](http://www.nguyuruwaaringarrem.com)

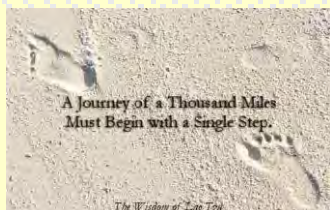
**Become a fan of the Halls Creek Music Festival on Facebook!!**

[www.facebook.com/hallscreekmusicfestival](http://www.facebook.com/hallscreekmusicfestival) !!



**Find The Better Life Project on Facebook!**

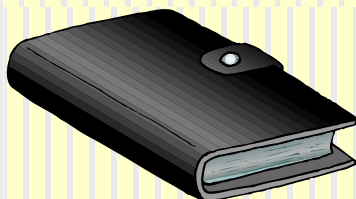
[www.facebook.com/betterlifeproject](http://www.facebook.com/betterlifeproject) !!



## 8. Words of wisdom...

*We are already one, but we imagine that we are not.  
What we have to recover is our original unity -  
what we have to be, is what we are.*

**Thomas Merton**



## 9. Diary Dates

### → OPEN DAY

Better Life Project will be hosting a Community Open Day.

***Watch this space – date to be advised***

*All welcome!*

## Radio

### → PRK Radio 98.1fm

Every Wednesday  
Carol Cadsky – Better Life Project  
Music, Interviews, Announcements,  
Updates, Reminders and more.  
Tune in!

**Want to know what else is happening in Halls Creek? Visit:**

→ **Shire of Halls Creek:** [www.hallscreek.wa.gov.au](http://www.hallscreek.wa.gov.au)

→ **The Kimberley Page:** [www.kimberleypage.com.au](http://www.kimberleypage.com.au)

Halls Creek Better Life Project Newsletter is written and compiled by the Halls Creek Better Life Project Office. It is a free publication for the benefit of Halls Creek people. Contact BLP office if you would like further information on any article. The BLP newsletter does not offer editorial opinion or advertising space.

