

# YOUNG VINNIES AND NGAANYATJARRA LANDS SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP WRITTEN IN 2011



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**The below article was written in 2011 as a summary of our relationship with the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School and Daisy Ward:**

The Sacred Heart College Young Vinnies group has built a partnership with the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School for the past three years. We supplied a group of Indigenous grandmothers known as the Breakfast Ladies with an industrial toaster, sandwich maker, kitchen utensils and recipe books after seeing an article in *The West Australian* highlighting the great work being done by the parents and families of these children in their community. These women were able to use these resources to provide fresh, healthy breakfasts for children attending the school.

In April 2011, 18 Indigenous students and seven staff, including teachers and elders from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, were hosted by our Young Vinnies group. The children, from Years 2-10, were from nine communities located around the SA/NT/WA border and up to 1,700km north-east of Perth. The children were in Perth for a week and the purpose of the visit was to acknowledge the students' outstanding attendance at school on a regular basis.

Some of the children came to Perth last year (2010) on a similar trip and visited our College. For most students, this was their first trip to the city from their desert home. They experienced flying in a plane and seeing the ocean for the first time. Whilst at the College, the children played basketball and frisbee on the oval. We then took the children to Sorrento Beach, where we were joined by a Channel 10 camera crew who filmed the children playing in the water. They then enjoyed working with robots in an Engineering class and had morning tea with our students and staff.

After recess, they went to the Art Department and made colourful place mats that showed where they had been on their trip. The students were presented with books and toys that were organised by our Young Vinnies. We finished with a delicious lunch and set off for Channel 10 studios. We were greeted by Narelda Jacobs who was related to one of the children. The children were shown around the studio and witnessed the filming of the evening news, including segments of their visit to the beach.

The College organised a visit to Clontarf for the children to check out the facilities and two students will be boarders in 2012.

These bi-annual trips are a wonderful opportunity for both student groups to interact with each other.

After the visit to the College, the Young Vinnies received the following invitation from the Ngaanyatjarra Lands School:

*"On behalf of our very lucky 18 students who attended your school earlier this year for our school's attendance reward camp, we would like to take this opportunity to once again thank your staff and students for their kind hospitality and access to the art, sport and robotics activities provided. Further to our visit, we are keen to build upon our partnership by inviting three of your senior students and one staff member to our annual Desert Dust Up in September. Desert Dust Up is an opportunity for our nine communities to join together in celebrating the*

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*students' heritage through art, culture and sport. In appreciation of your kindness provided to our school earlier this year, our school would like to offer to fund your transportation to this event."*

Our ties with the Warburton Ranges School Community were made closer during September when three Young Vinnies members, along with our Principal, Mr Peter Bothe, travelled to the Ngaanyatjarra lands. The Ngaanyatjarra Lands School consists of nine separate campuses – the most distant of which are separated by 600km. Three students and a staff member from Clontarf were also invited and travelled with our Young Vinnies. Our three students were wonderful ambassadors and their engaging ways soon won over the beautiful children who had travelled into the Warburton campus for their annual Desert Dust Up. Our group helped organise games and slept under the stars with the children. They were welcomed by the elders and families of the children.

In November, another older group of students will be hosted by Young Vinnies at the College. Activities will include surfing lessons with our Vinnies Members at Trigg Beach followed by morning tea at the College. Channel 10 may once again cover the visit of the students during their activities. A football coaching clinic will then be conducted by some Indigenous football players on our oval. Students will then be able to integrate into an Engineering class learning about Robotics. Some of our Vinnies students and staff are going to join the visiting children on a camp at Dwellingup which will foster great relationships.

The partnership we have developed with these Indigenous children, families and staff is a wonderful opportunity for our Young Vinnies and the College to form lasting friendships with these isolated schools.

**Rossana Hywood  
Sacred Heart College Young Vinnies Coordinator, 2011**