

Changing the Tide - September issue

This is the print-friendly version of the following page:

http://www.strongersmarter.qut.edu.au/news/detail.jsp?q_link_id=53

[\[Return to original version\]](#)



Changing the Tide - September issue

Kimberley News, 'Young Legends' get a taste of public service, New staff at Stronger Smarter

[Subscribe](#) to *Changing the Tide*



Welcome to this edition of Changing the Tide.

My name is Adam Boddy and I've recently joined to Stronger Smarter team to manage the Focus School Next Steps Initiative with Chris Sarra.

This initiative was announced by Minister Garrett on 8 September 2011 and DEEWR have engaged the Stronger Smarter Institute to administer it to 101 schools across Australia.

During this first month of the Initiative we've been busy coordinating a forum that will be held on the Gold Coast at the end of October. The forum will bring together Next Steps School Principals and Indigenous community members from across the country to share their individual success stories and discuss strategies aimed at improving the outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

I'm really looking forward to meeting the Principals and community members at the forum and I'm excited to be involved in this historic initiative.



Adam Boddy

Stronger Smarter Leadership Program Kimberley News

The leadership team was welcomed back to Broome by the Stronger Smarter Kimberley facilitators and participants earlier this month for the Leadership for School Transformation Forum. 44 participants

returned to the Broome School Camp including school staff and community leaders from as far south as Kalgoorlie to Kalumburu Remote Community School in the north of Western Australia.

It was evident to everyone who attended the workshops that all schools and workplaces represented are committed and focused on creating high expectations learning environments for their students. Kimberley students are very fortunate to have such this growing team of school and community workers changing the tide of low expectations throughout the region.

Michal Purcell, Carol Bennel and Gab Willie were honoured by an invitation to La Grange Remote Community School, located in the Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community which is a couple of hours from Broome.



La Grange Remote Community School is located in the Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community ? two hours south of Broome



Traditional Owner Rosco Bin Rashid

The visit was hosted by Bec Robson, Principal; Rosco Bin Rashid, School Based Attendance Officer; Bronwyn Wright, Deputy Principal and Mathew Yanawana, AIEO.

Rosco is a traditional owner and led a tour of the community for the visitors. Bronwyn and Mathew guided the visitors around the school, Mathew led the morning assembly and Bronwyn accompanied the team to an innovative two way lesson at the nearby beach. Under the close supervision of their teacher, students used their knowledge and skills of bush tucker cooking, using the facilities in their beautiful country as a classroom.

The Kimberley Stronger Smarter story will be highlighted at the upcoming 2011 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Conference "STRONG START - BRIGHT FUTURE" in Darwin next month. Edith Wright, Carol Bennell and Clifton Fong have the privilege of presenting two sessions titled Implementing

the Stronger Smarter Approach in the Kimberley and Stronger Smarter in the Kimberley. Congratulations Edie, Carol and Clifton we all look forward to hearing about your success and experiences at the conference.

Learn more about the [Stronger Smarter Leadership Program](#)



Left to right: Stronger Smarter's Michal Purcell with La Grange students Leetoia Bin Rashid and Shermaiah Bangu

Stronger Smarter Learning Communities network ready to support schools and communities to close the gap for Indigenous students

The September teleconference of the Stronger Smarter Learning Communities (SSLC) schools signalled the next stage of the Learning Communities. Project participants enthusiastically agreed to contribute to a register that will enable the successes and learnings from the project to be shared amongst the 200 schools and communities in the network.



Principal Jane Cameron speaks about technology that is helping her school form strong links with Elders in the community.

A register of expertise will provide the names of school staff, community people and other groups who have assisted schools in successfully implementing strategies to improve outcomes for Indigenous students.

A number of guest speakers participating in the teleconference also highlighted the diversity of approaches that can be used by schools and communities in developing their own innovative approaches.

Principal of Glenroi Heights Public School, Jane Cameron shared how the use of technology and virtual learning opportunities has enabled their school to form strong links with Elders in the community. In many instances the technology has also allowed for flexibility and good professional learning practices. [Listen to the interview.](#)

Principal of Shepherdson College, Bryan Hughes shared how their school is currently identifying community assets and authentically embracing Indigenous Leadership from within the local community by allowing community members to input into school planning and decision making.

Principal of Chancellor State College, Bevan Brennan discussed the importance of having mentors in

schools and the use of effective mentoring programs. Such formal mentoring programs have allowed less experienced teaching staff the opportunity to enhance their skills and gain coaching and support in their profession.

All principals from the SSLC network have been asked to provide a list of people from their staff, communities and others who they have worked with to develop a register of expertise, which others can confidently draw upon to support them in planning strategies for their schools.

This register of expertise will be completed later this month and will be used to raise awareness of the expertise available across the SSLC network as well as generate options for sharing knowledge to input into the strategic and operational plans for 2012.

Learn more about the [Stronger Smarter Learning Communities](#)

Young 'legends' get a taste of the public service

Recently the Stronger Smarter Institute was selected as a partner organisation to assist with the Learn Earn Legend Work Experience Program run by the Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations (DEEWR) in Canberra. 100 students from around the country had the opportunity to experience what life in the public service involves.

Congratulations to the following students who attended:

- ? Chloe Farley, Rutherford Technology College, NSW
- ? Tahlia-Rose Vanissum, Loganlea State High School, Qld
- ? Erica Pabai, Loganlea State High School, Qld
- ? Yolanda Buchanan, Bowraville Central School, NSW
- ? Reeana Cassady, Ingham State High School, Qld
- ? Alfie Putzka, Ingham State High School, Qld
- ? Zechariah Cassady-Wacando, Ingham State High School, Qld
- ? Ebethea Drinkwater, Chancellor State College, Qld
- ? Chontell Flanagan, Chancellor State College, Qld
- ? Peter Spanner, Rockhampton State High School, Qld
- ? Rebecca Whyte, Rockhampton State High School, Qld
- ? Jocelyn Duncan, Rockhampton State High School, Qld
- ? Courtney Johnson, Nambucca Heads High School, NSW
- ? Moa Newman, St Teresa's College - Abergowrie
- ? Michelle Daylight, Teacher, Loganlea State High School
- ? Jennifer Harburn-Vicig, Teacher, Ingham State High School

Michelle Daylight and Jennifer Harburn-Vicig, two of the teachers who travelled with the students provide an account of their experience at the program. [Read more here...](#)



Learn Earn Legend Work Experience Program Participants

Welcome to Hamiora



Ko Ngongotaha te maunga, ko Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe te moana, ko Tamatekapua te tupuna, ko Te Arawa te iwi, ko Hamiora Werahiko toku ingoa. My sacred mountain is Ngongotaha, my ancestral waters are Rotorua-nui-a-Kahumatamomoe, I am descended from Tamatekapua my ancestor and Te Arawa is my tribe. I am Hamiora Werahiko.

As Maori (Indigenous New Zealander) what excited me about the Stronger Smarter Institute was the innovative and transformative work being done to improve the learning outcomes of Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander students within the Australian education system. This spoke to my passion for Indigenous education which has seen me hold varied positions in education both here in Australia and New Zealand.

I migrated to Australia three years ago from Rotorua New Zealand which is within the tribal lands of Te Arawa. On moving to Sydney I took a position with a Payroll and Human Resources software company as an Instructional Designer, in this position I was rapidly introduced to the complexities of Australian payroll and employment law. I then moved into a training/consulting position in the Aged Care and Health sectors where I developed and delivered training to metropolitan and remote communities across Australia.

While in New Zealand I lectured at an Indigenous University (Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi) across the Education, Environmental Science, Computer Science and Foundation Studies faculties and had a keen research interest in social networking and technological change and how these impact on cultural formation. I held a number of local, regional and national positions as an advocate for employment rights and technology education.

I continue to work between New Zealand and Australia as a private capacity building consultant working on different projects from Indigenous leadership, pacific youth justice literacy and numeracy programs in New South Wales and implementing a New Zealand model of early year's education to Australia

focused on our traditional connection to our homeland.

In coming to the Stronger Smarter Institute and working as the Stronger Smarter Learning Communities Network Coordinator I view as a continuation of my passion for Indigenous Education and am excited by the transformative nature such a network can inspire. I look forward to working with all the members of the network in continuing to change the tide of low expectations for Indigenous students across Australia.



Copyright © QUT. All rights reserved.

Queensland University of Technology

CRICOS No. 00213J

Last modified 21-Feb-2013