



Wirraway News Spring 2011

STAFF

In August we welcomed Phil Storry as a student at Wirraway . Phil has a long history with Wirraway as a camper and bunkhouse leader and is now doing his Cert III in Outdoor Recreation here. He has an interest in horses, the kitchen and anything outdoors. (He'll find any excuse for soccer.) Phil has a fantastic disposition and his fun attitude has already brought about many great moments on camp with camper and staff member alike.



While we're excited to welcome Phil, we're also saddened to farewell Caleb Jones. Caleb worked at Wirraway for a total of 7 years, mostly heading up the kitchen but also being an amazing IT resource. We'll miss Caleb's food but also his ability to invent fun new games, his love of a good chat and his peace loving nature. Caleb and Abbie have moved to Adelaide where Caleb is making an impact working for "My Budget". We thank God for Caleb's time here and God's provision in providing accommodation, as well as work for both Caleb and Abbie.

As Caleb moves on, we're blessed to have one of our current students, Sam Lethbridge, take over the kitchen. This is a huge learning curve for Sam and we're so grateful for his willingness to learn and adapt in this area. Please continue to pray for Sam as he takes on this key ministry of Wirraway. We are also really happy to have two of our graduate Certificate III students stay on with us. Mel Bulke and Will Leske are now officially part time staff, and will stay on to do Certificate IV studies with us next year. They are both making exceptional contributions: Mel with the horses and Will in the other activities.

OODNADATTA CAMP

As a result of a federal government Indigenous Sport and Recreation Program Grant, the second week of the October Musters was spent enjoying the presence of 16 students (+ some mums and aunts) from Oodnadatta Aboriginal School. The campers were aged 5 – 13 and their love of life, camp and each other made for a really enjoyable time. They enthused about all the activities (including a 'led' trail ride through some of the closer paddocks) and staff were regularly seen playing fun games with the students out on the playing field and in the shed during free time.

DRINK CAN RING PULLS

Many of you know about our World Vision fund raising efforts with our badges and magnets. We now have a 2nd program in operation. An Indonesian organisation called The Prosthetic Foundation uses ring pulls from drink cans to make parts for prosthetic limbs, mainly for victims of land mines. The financial difference for a person in need is 700 baht (for one made utilising ring pulls) versus 5000 baht. We've been collecting ring pulls for 3 weeks now and have collected over 330 rings, which equates to 20% of our

first leg! We love the fact that Wirraway is continuing to have a sense of responsibility and care towards less fortunate people and this is just another way we can do that.

GRANTS

We continue to be blessed by the number of grants that are helping continue to expand the vision of Wirraway. We've been awarded a grant from TQUAL (the tourism arm of the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism) to build a new accommodation and training centre. This will give the Wirraway students a place to sleep and study, and a venue where the lecture/discussion phase of their Cert III and IV studies in Outdoor Recreation can occur.

Many of you know of our long standing relationship with Morialta Trust Inc, who over the last few years has given us funds to sponsor individuals for Musters, and for subsidies for schools from lower socio-economic areas to have camps during term time. In 2012, Morialta has increased their grant to us which will allow us to start our 'Exeat Plus' program. Exeat Plus will give 26 Aboriginal students who attend various Adelaide private schools as boarders on full scholarship, the opportunity to come to Wirraway for 4 of their 'exeat' weekends. (Exeat weekends are times where boarders go home or visit friends for the weekend.) These campers will learn horse skills, do an overnight bushwalk, have some sessions on leadership and personal development, and enjoy some of the other Wirraway activities. We're really excited about it, as are the students and teachers who will be involved. To add to this great venture, another grant as part of the Commonwealth Bank Staff Community Fund will allow us to run a second Exeat Plus program for an additional 16 students through 2012.

We're excited about these grants that we've already been awarded and our next venture will begin if we receive another one we've applied for..... We have applied to the Office for Recreation and Sport Facilities for a grant to pay towards building a giant maze! The plans look incredible so we're all waiting with anticipation to see if we're successful again! (We'd love your prayers for this!)

As you can see from the list, the grant aspect of Wirraway opens up a wide array of opportunities and developments and we continue to be grateful to the organisations that make the funds available.

HORSE NEWS



We're excited to welcome two new horses! The first is Hunter who is a 15 year old black registered Quarter horse who is 15.2 hands high. Our second horse Scuffy (pictured) is a 14 hand Welsh Mountain Pony. Scuffy is on permanent loan to us by some friends of Wirraway and we're very grateful for their generosity. Both horses have easily joined in with the program and are already favourites with the campers.

GET YOUR FINGERS WALKING

Camps are continuing to go very well and bookings for Musters and Training Camp are quickly filling. Remember to go to our website www.wirraway.org to book or call us on (08) 8536 6063. Training camp will be Fri 16th - Sun 18th Dec and costs \$82.50. It is already booked out for horse helps and kitchen helps but there are places available for bunkhouse leaders. If you want to become a bunkhouse leader, this is THE weekend for training. If you have a problem with the fee aspect, give Wirraway a call! As an early heads up "Refresh 2012" will be on Fri 25th - Sun 27th May and the theme is "Deeper". This discipleship camp is for high school aged people up to young adults. Stay tuned to later newsletters and the website for more details and booking information.

HAVE AN ENJOYABLE & MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS!