

Opening of the New School



May 24th 1993
Official Blessing and Opening
of the new school

The 200 visitors on the day enjoyed the proceedings which began with a procession from the old school tin shed to the new buildings.

The children were dressed in traditional Aboriginal costumes and paintings for the Corroboree which tells the story of our Wanalirri people and paintings from the Dreamtime.

Official speeches and Prayers of Blessing from Father Lorenz were the next part of the agenda and while the building was being blessed the children performed a medley of tunes on percussion instruments.

After the unveiling of the plaque, the ceremony finished with the children singing "Living in the Land of Australia".

Frs Anscar and Sebastian then blessed the ten new houses which had been built recently for the Community. A lunch was then served for everyone, after which, many made their flight home. Those who stayed on enjoyed the evening Corroboree and rock music provided by the Mt Elizabeth Band.

Sr Frances Wilson Journal 1991 - 1995

Two draft pages from our Wanalirri 25th Anniversary PhotoBook. It will be launched at our Anniversary celebration in June next year. Thank you to all those community members who came to the school or sent in their memories of the school. It will be a book to treasure.

My story: Josephine White

My name is Josephine White. I was born in Gibb River. For school I went to Lombadina first and then Beagle Bay after. It was very sad to leave my parents in Gibb River. When I was at Beagle Bay I could come back to Gibb River in the holidays and see Mum and Dad.

I was part of the group who wanted a school here at Gibb river. We wrote a letter to the Catholic Education Office. A school started in the old shed - my children went there. Then the new school was built and everyone had their own space; the big kids and the little ones. There were lots of kids here. Everyone was happy. My first daughter stood on the verandah and smiled away.

We helped in the school with teaching the kids.



My story: Austin Gallagher

Austin was only at Wanalirri for about a month, here is his impression of the school.

One day I was schooling here and we had a morning prayer with Miss Nola. Every day we had to make cakes for our morning tea and most of the time we had to cook our own dinner. We used to go out on camping and fishing school trips. We went to the airport to see the chopper land.