Another month has flown by already! The Lord continues to bless us here in the school and community. We are thankful for the children’s enthusiasm for school, their progress, fun times we all share and also the opportunity to rest over the holidays. Children participated in some Easter activities and the primary class celebrated end of term with a party.

It was quiet in Gawa over the break but it was great to see the students return at the beginning of Term Two.

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### Easter

**Ban’thula**

Ban’thula, one of our neighbouring homelands, held a church rally over the Easter long weekend. A shelter was constructed with tree trunks and plastic sheeting to accommodate the many gatherings held in celebration of the occasion. We enjoyed fellowship with families from Ban’thula and many visitors from other homelands and Galiwinku. It was a great blessing to celebrate the sacrifice of our Saviour with our brothers and sisters.

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### Initiation Ceremony

The ceremony was a significant event, where boys of the age of 10 or 12 were initiated into manhood. The ceremony involved painting the boys with ceremonial pigments, followed by the selection of a song and dance to symbolize the transition from boyhood to manhood. Afterwards, the initiated boys were given responsibilities, such as caring for their parents and younger siblings, and were expected to set an example.

**TRANSLATION:**

"Bilipili ga Maymayngu marrtji bala Galinwin’kulil Dhapiw. Njurruunjiny madany bidiyun gamununguy bala bark bark’thuna. Yurr dhungarrany dhu yothuny njunhi 10 years old or 12 years old. Ga gamurruny njunhiy njurigiyi romku njaythu yothny dirramany gakal nanytjalamaram nhakun njalapal dirramu."

Written by Clive Munarryun in Djamburr-Puyu

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### BiliPili and Maymayngu

BiliPili and Maymayngu went to Galinwinku for their Initiation Ceremony. First they were painted by old men while others started making fire and singing songs. The boy has to be right age like 10 years old or 12 years old. The meaning of initiation is turning a boy into a man. They don’t have to worry about how they used to do things when they were a boy. Now they have to start acting as men and look after their parents and younger siblings and no more teasing.

Written by Clive M in English
Sal has been teaching Kinder three mornings a week. We have eight children attending and they always enjoy playing games, singing, reading books and doing activities together. The children have been learning about seeds and plants, the beach and the ocean. We have made some wonderful crafts together inspired by these themes and have learnt many amazing things about our beautiful world.

Staff and families need to be praised for their patience during the holidays when our generator ‘broke down’ yet again. We all struggled to cope with the hot twelve days without power. We are very thankful for the waterslide built by Harry and Bill which provided much relief for the children during this time. School classes were conducted out on the school verandah and we all jumped for joy when the power returned.

Bill Schroder has spent a month here doing some much needed maintenance work on the cars and machinery. Bill comes back to Gawa regularly and we always appreciate his hard work. He is part of our family here at Gawa and the children especially enjoy his presence.

We kindly received a $500 donation from the Parish of St Vincent de Paul in Parkville (Melbourne) of new and pre-loved clothes and manchester. We always appreciate donations for our small op shop which provides bargains for everyone. Clothes, towels and sheets are in demand as there are no shops on the island. Many churches and individuals have helped us to establish this shop, keep it full and help us raise money for our school.