



PERTAME SCHOOL

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

2023



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WERTA!

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023 and what is the very first official newsletter for the Pertame School.

This newsletter is to keep everyone updated on a quarterly basis on what the Pertame School has been up to and on upcoming events. Firstly, we would like to acknowledge the many Pertame Elders who have kept our language strong so that we can continue to make it strong again and honour the legacy of our ancestors and family members who have since passed.

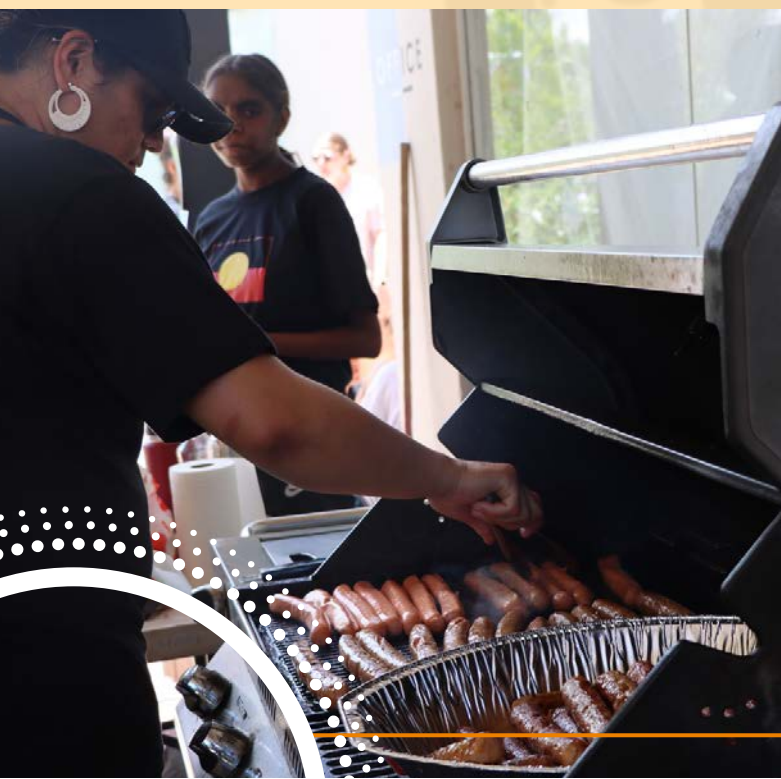


On Country Classroom Fundraiser

The Pertame School is seeking to build a Pertame School. A permanent homebase for the intergeneration transmission of our language, on the land the language came from. We are aiming to build a permanent structure to run year-round language classes, store our resources, run land conservation and restoration programs, cook and provide food for the community. We want to train and employ our local Pertame men to work on its construction, so we can all take great pride in our new home.

Hear more about our proposed project from Pertame community leaders in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK6iyzdpeA8>

The commencement of 2023 started off with a huge crowd fundraiser to raise funds for a home for our language. We launched our fundraiser to coincide with Survival Day by having a fundraising BBQ and bake sale at Watch this Space Gallery with delicious home baked goodies and treats donated by the lovely ladies from Treat Me Good Cafe Mparntwe, and other generous supporters, with the event receiving huge support from the wider Alice Springs community. Overall, it was great to see the amount of individuals who shared and donated to the Pertame classroom build fundraiser. Special thanks to everyone who made the day so rewarding.





Our Chuffed Fundraising Campaign Raised \$100,000 to make our Elder's dream a reality to see a home for the Language, on the land the language came from.

After the success from the BBQ, came the official launch of our online crowd fundraiser. Working tirelessly brainstorming ideas and putting in hours after hours of preparation, which meant video productions and campaign ads and heaps of posts. These resources were shared on our facebook and Instagram pages to highlight the importance of a school on country to the wider Australian community through social media. This campaign attracted the support of many individuals and organisations whose generosity we are very grateful for.

"We'd like to thank all the people who supported us for your kind donations. Your generosity of spirit will have long last impact on our up-and-coming generations of Pertame children. For too long, many of our children have been without their language, and now your kind donations have made it possible for us to start creating a permanent home to carry our language forward on our homelands" - Pertame Elder, Kathy Bradshaw-Swan

Through the publicity our crowdfunder created, we were able to attract the assistance of the Fulcrum Agency. The Fulcrum Agency is a Social Enterprise that assists Indigenous peoples with construction projects on their remote communities. The Fulcrum Agency architects have offered to assist us pro-bono to create a comprehensive design brief, apply for further funding then manage our construction contracts. This will allow us to focus on language revival, while they manage the construction elements of our language classroom. The Fulcrum Agency will also assist us to involve our Pertame young people in the construction of the classroom, by supporting our young people to train and apply for White Cards to work on construction sites.

Raising \$100,000 was a great start to making our classroom dream a reality. Now we are excited to work with experienced architects to create a long lasting building that fits all our long-term needs.





Pertame Children's Choir

Following the successful Melbourne trip, where our children were invited to sing Uncle Archie Roach's classic "Took the Children Away" in Pertame, our Choir has been hard at work learning a new song. Our community chose Paul Kelly and Kevin Carmody's "From Little Things, Big Things Grow", honouring and paying respects to the Gurindji People from Wave Hill and their walk off which led to the start of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act Northern Territory 1976. The actions of the Gurindji people paved the way for the return of traditional lands to many Indigenous people in the Northern Territory, with some Pertame family starting their own homelands on Pertame country. Our Elders translated the song into Pertame and our children have learned the lyrics, and created their own illustrations of the historical moment in Aboriginal history.





Elder Advisory Meeting

We had our Elders Advisory Group meeting with a huge turnout of 50 Elders and community members attending. We are proud to be a community-run project, and we know we will need to bring our whole Pertame community back together as our old people were in the past if we are going to save our language. Our Pertame Elders are our living encyclopaedias, holding knowledge no one else in the world holds. We will continue to be guided by their expertise.

Also, the Elders meeting included conversations of a Pertame Men's group forming with Pertame Elder Des Rogers. All the men present agreed it was a great project to start, bringing Elders and young fellas together to learn language and culture in a culturally safe space. Watch this space for future updates on a Pertame Men's group.





Pertame Elder Winner of NT Senior Potrait Competition

We also have more exciting news, Christobel Swan's portrait had won the People's Choice category for The Portrait of a Senior Territorian competition held in Alice Springs this year. Her portrait was painted by gifted artist Christine Ng who worked tirelessly to ensure that the portrait portrayed every element of Christobel overlooking her Boomerang Bore Homeland. Alice Springs artist Christine Ng painted the winning portrait of Christobel Perrurla Swan. Her work was accompanied by an inscription by Ms Swan - Atha Ngketya Nweka Ilkerta Tnyenema, meaning "I am keeping my language strong".

The Portrait of a Senior Territorian Award recognises and celebrates the achievements and contributions by senior Territorians to the community and encourages excellence and creativity in portraiture by Northern Territory artists. We couldn't be more proud of the both of them for the recognition and achievement on the portrait honouring Christobel's legacy, from pioneering the first Aboriginal Interpreter Service in Australia, to founding the Pertame school to see her language passed onto her next generations.

"My language means the life to me. The world. I love this Pertame language. My advice to the children of the world: love each other and love each others' language". - Christobel Swan





Easter On Country Camp

This Easter, the Pertame School hosted an on-country camp, inviting the community to return to the homelands to honour our ancestors. We held a service at the Henbury Cemetery, where 40 community members attended to spend the day together, then enjoyed a community BBQ. The kids spent the day playing in the Finke River, cooking kangaroo tail, fishing and spending time on country.





Melbourne & Ballarat Intensive Planning Trip

To get ready for the Language Nest, four Pertame language learning apprentices travelled to Ballarat to spend an intensive week immersed in Pertame in the home of fluent Elder Doreen Abbott. We also visited Melbourne to have relationship building meetings with the Bensen Foundation, Mannifera, the Myer Foundation and the Benelong Foundation.

Each day in Ballarat was spent learning language in preparation for the Early Childhood total immersion playgroup we were launching later in the year, called the Pertame Language Nest. The apprentices learned the language needed to communicate in an early-childhood setting within the Language Nest, child rearing language and classroom management language. Elder and apprentices also planned out the curriculum, routines and themes for the Language Nest launch, planning activities, games, stories, songs and craft sessions all within the Pertame language.



Representing Pertame on the National Stage

Apprentice Shania Armstrong travelled to Adelaide as a member of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages Directions Group, an advisory body formed to advise the Federal Government's response to the decade. The Directions Group worked on a National Action Plan to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in realising their dreams of revitalising, preserving and reclaiming their languages for the official launch of the National Action Plan.



Apprentice Samantha travelled to Nipaluna/Hobart as part of the Coalition of Peaks, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Partnership. The Languages Policy Partnership aims to develop a joint approach to drive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages. The main role of the Language Policy Partnership is to make proposals to the joint council to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages and to make sure they are strong, supported and flourishing (Outcome 16 of the National Agreement).



Pertame Elder Doreen Abbott and Apprentice Leanne Swan was invited to present at The Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices) National Summit. The Summit brought together over 800 First Nations women delegates from across Australia, for decision-making, innovation and celebration.



Two outstanding Pertame women, leading the way in supporting our children in education through their work at the Pertame School and Gillen Primary School, were finalists for Young Achiever Awards. Leela Kruger took out the 2023 Young Aboriginal Educator Award and Shania Armstrong was a finalist. We got even prouder as Leela took out the overall 2023 Young Achiever of the Year for all the Northern Territory. Our Pertame young women are shining and fighting hard for a better education for the next generations





Language Nest Trials & Launch

The Pertame Ngetya Untya (Language Nest) is an immersion playgroup for Pertame infants and their parents to be immersed within their language, culture and community to create bilingual, culturally resilient, and community-connected children, ready to transition into further schooling. A Language Nest creates a space where young children can be raised in their Indigenous language through meaningful and culturally-relevant interaction with fluent Elders and community educators, where all communication and activities will be carried out in Pertame. English is left at the door. The Nest will run three days a week, for 4 hours a day. Mothers and carers of the Pertame babies are also employed to bring their children into the Nest and learn alongside their babies to take the language home and continue the language immersion. We are aiming to raise our Pertame babies as first language fluent speakers once again, as our Elders were raised.

We have held 20 Language Nest trials so far, immersing our babies in 80 hours of complete Pertame immersion. The trial sessions are run out at Batchelor Institute until the move to our new childcare facility at Yipirinya School later at the end of June.

We have multiple generations learning and teaching Pertame together with the support of Elders and Educations within the Nest including:

- grandmother Elsa Swan, mother Shania Burdett and daughter Tatiana,
- grandmother Samantha Armstrong, mother Sashanna Armstrong, mother Kyah Armstrong and their children Tyreece, Tykheal, Tyrique & Sammy-lee
- Grandmother Auriel Swan, mother Brittany Swan and son Elijah
- Grandmother Debbie Swan and grandson Dequan
- Grandmother Leanne Swan, and her grandchildren Gordy Jnr and Terell
- Mother Kayla Solomon and her daughter Mahni-Kay
- Mother Renae Coull and her daughter Tilly
- Auntie Josie Ferguson and niece Violet
- Auntie Jodie Stewart and her nieces Ellianah, Ada, Arissa and Tina

The Language Nest is a Pertame language only space so the mothers and their children are all learning and talking Pertame in free play, morning walks, meditations, obstacle courses, arts and crafts, songs, reading, hand washing and eating.

We are open to all Pertame families to come and learn Pertame with their children, and to take the language home.







Marra Nthurra Tyenha Nwernaka

Thank You Funders & Partners



ORANGES & SARDINES



Watchthis
SPACE



Groundswell

