

First Edition

Welcome to the first edition of our *Alumni News*, a publication to keep former students connected with Margaret River Independent School, formerly Nyindamurra Family School.

Inspired by our 30th anniversary in 2012, we are reconnecting with former students via an Alumni List and this biannual newsletter, which we hope to expand to quarterly as soon as possible.

We also have an Alumni section on our new MRIS website: www.mris.wa.edu.au

We want to hear & share your news & memories of the school with fellow former students & build & maintain strong links with you for the future.

No matter how long you were at the school, please join our Alumni List, share some memories with us for future editions & perhaps include a current photo of yourself at work or play or with your family.

For more information contact Melissa White (melissa.white@mr.is.wa.edu.au) or the school on 08 9757 7515.

Jack came back to visit



WHERE DAD WENT TO SCHOOL:
MRIS Principal Wendy Roediger with former student Jack Garnett, his wife Lucinda & their children Nelly, Mitchell & Jarrah.

MRIS's relatively new Bush School harks back to its earlier incarnation as Nyindamurra Family School, where students such as Jack Garnett experienced classes in the great outdoors.

In 2014, Jack visited the school with his family and shared some of his memories, including "bouncing in the back seat of an old Holden listening to Paul Kelly at full volume as our teacher Greg drives us down to Redgate beach for our daily dose of 'outside learning'."

"I'm not convinced it was a formal lesson plan, but we learnt plenty!"

Jack had seven years at the school, Pre-Primary to Year 6 (1983-1989).

"I remember the everyday colour and care of Nyindamurra," he said.

"It was a safe place where learning was play and play was fun.

"Debbie Doig, Greg, Ben, Marie, Lynn, Wendy—teachers I will never forget.

"Nyindamurra provided what I believe is the core purpose of primary schooling: To provide a social, emotional and physical learning environment that encourages creativity and independence in each student.

"Nyindamurra provided the spark to light the flame of learning and prioritised learning from our mistakes ahead of bubble-wrapping us.

"I have a continued love of learning and have pursued a variety of undergraduate studies including my first undergraduate course in robotics and computer science, followed by majors in psychology, philosophy and economics.

"A post graduate course in Outdoor Education and subsequent teaching work left me with a deeper understanding of how hard teaching is . . . so I studied for a further three years and became a Paramedic.

"The effort of those who founded Nyindamurra continues to make a positive impact in my life and for that I am so very grateful."

Help your school remain a viable alternative with our new

FutureFives Project

You are invited to contribute a multiple of 5 (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$500) each term.

This project follows the school's Bush School motto—*From little things, big things grow*—demonstrating that small ongoing contributions can assist with big developments.

We will be sending out sign-up sheets for the FutureFives Project in the near future and look forward to any support you would like to offer.