

Second Edition

Welcome to the second 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 quarterly newsletter, featuring updates from past students and news of today's MRIS.

We want to hear & share your news & memories of the school with fellow former students & build & maintain strong links with you for the future. We invite you to visit the Alumni section on the school's website: www.mris.wa.edu.au

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

Great memories of Nyindamurra's unique family/school community

FORMER local student Jesse Bruggler has just graduated from the University of WA with a bachelor of science with honours in psychology, and a bachelor of science in physiology, specialising in neuroscience.

Having studied at Margaret River Independent School and Margaret River Senior High School, his university course took three years, plus one year for the honours degree.

He is now working for the Headwest organisation, which specialises in people who have acquired brain injuries.

Jesse is planning to travelling to South America later this year, then will focus on completing his masters in neuro-psychology in the next few years.



Great graduate: Jesse Bruggler, centre, at his graduation ceremony with parents Robyn Stewart and Manfred Bruggler. March 2013

The Bruggler family has a long connection with MRIS, with dad Manfred a long-time provider of music lessons for students and the whole family involved with the school when the children were students.

Jesse Bruggler (pictured left with mum Robyn and dad Manfred) was a student at Nyindamurra Family School from 1989 to 1997.

"One of my fondest memories of my early schooling was when an Aboriginal elder came to the school to teach us about culture and bush tucker," Jesse remembered.

"I think it was great to have the opportunity to learn about the indigenous culture at such a young age."

Another important memory was of playing sport before class every morning, which he felt encouraged a healthy lifestyle he carried with him always.

"I also remember the supportive, accepting and fun environment developed by the parents and teachers at the school," Jesse said.

"Nyindamurra gave us a fantastic start in life because of its unique family/community environment.

"Nyindamurra encouraged kids of all ages and backgrounds to work and play together, both in, and outside of the classroom.

"I feel that this interaction allowed me to develop strong social skills, and an understanding of many different cultures and backgrounds.

"I also feel that Nyindamurra had a perfect mix of maths and science with arts and music subjects, allowing me to obtain a very rounded education, and form what has been a lifetime appreciation of these disciplines."

Help your school remain a viable alternative with our

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 look forward to any support you would like to offer.