**Nungalinya College**

**Principal’s Report to UCA Synod**

**October 2018**

**Introduction**

It is with sadness that I write this last report to the synod in my role as Principal of Nungalinya College. In the eight years I have been at the College there have been many changes, many challenges, many joys and most of all many students. The College is a unique place where students, staff and Board from different denominations come together as one people in Christ. I believe the College Board have made an excellent choice for my replacement in Ben van Gelderen and I look forward to hearing the new developments that will occur next year.

As is usual, I will outline in my report progress regarding students, courses, staffing and property.

1. **Students**After a number of years increasing student numbers, 2017 saw a slight reduction. This was expected and did not dip below the number that was budgeted for. In 2018 however, the numbers have been much lower than expected. We are not yet at the end of the year, but we estimate the final number attending will be around 220. This is due to many different reasons – bad weather early on, difficulty contacting people in homelands, funerals and sickness. We will be continuing to work on how best to contact the students for the future.

The annual comparison is below.

1. **Courses**The College has 5 courses

**Foundation Studies** is a literacy and numeracy course based on the Bible. Most students do this course prior to further study in theology so they will be set up to succeed in their later studies. This year we added a new Certificate II level to our Foundation Studies to help bridge the literacy gap between Certificate I and Certificate III levels.

**Certificate II in Media and Discipleship**
Unfortunately our funding for this course finishes at the end of the year, but it is such an important course we will seek to fund it through our general donations.

**Certificate II in Music**
This course also loses its funding at the end of the year and we have made the decision not to offer it next year. We hope more funding will become available at some point in the future.

**Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology.**This was our first year of offering this course over 3 years instead of 2. The overwhelming response by both students and staff is that this is a great improvement. Students have 2 weeks to complete a unit now instead of just 1. This allows for a slower approach with much better opportunities for reinforcing the learning. Our last group of students completing the 2 year course will graduate this year.

**Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology**This course has also changed to be offered over 3 years. With the focus of on leadership and contextual theology it is a vital course for church leaders.

We will be offering a new course starting next year – the Diploma of Translating. While the actual course is a secular course, the focus of the teaching will be to train people for Bible translation. This is a very exciting development. Alongside the accredited course will also be a series of unaccredited Bible Translation workshops held out in community. The Uniting Church, Bible Society, Wycliffe Bible Translators, CMS and AuSIL fund the project. This collaboration reflects the importance of such a course.

1. **Uniting Church Staff**Our Uniting Church staff this year are Lee Levett-Olson (Cert III / IV teacher 4 days a week), Tony Goodluck (Dean), Sandra Wangarr (Assistant Teacher Media Studies) and Justine Gawinygawiny Gaykamangu (Trainee Teacher in Foundation Studies). This is a reduction in number due to the resignation of Helen Richmond at the start of the year. Her replacement is Michelle Cook who starts at the beginning of 2019.
2. **Property**The Board have put in place a Strategic Property Plan for the next 3 years. This year we are replacing one of the student units. These are constructed of asbestos and past their use by date. It is hoped to also replace another unit next year. We are also enclosing the ground floor of the hostel to make a cyclone shelter. Our experience of the cyclone this year reinforced how important it is to have a shelter on campus. These improvements are funded through a series of bequests.

**Conclusion**

I wish to thank the synod for their ongoing support of the College through my time here as Principal. I am sorry that I am unable to attend the synod this year and trust that it will be a productive and encouraging time for those who do attend.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

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**Dr Jude Long**

**Principal**