



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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DERBY HOSTS FIRST GRADUATION

Mount Lawley C.A.E.,
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Over 80 people attended the graduation of the first students to complete the Advanced Education Entry Certificate course at the Derby Civic Centre on Sunday, August 12.

The Director of Mount Lawley College, in presenting the awards to the successful students, expressed the college's delight in being able to conduct the ceremony in the Kimberleys and that the college was hopeful that it could continue to provide a service to people in remote areas of the state.

The first five graduates - Agnes Albert, Verna Lockyer, Rosita Lovell, Christopher Bin Kali and Selina King, had completed the course in minimum time, which was a very commendable feat, considering the course only commenced in 1978 and the program was entirely by correspondence.

All the first five graduates had completed the course and been granted their award with credit. This entitled them to unconditional entrance into teacher training at Mount Lawley College.

Speakers at the ceremony included Mr Steven Albert, Chairman of the National Aboriginal Education Committee, Mr Jim Biendurruy of the National Aboriginal Committee and Mrs Ester Bevan of the National Aboriginal Education Committee.

Mr Albert, while congratulating the graduates, stated that this was only the first step and he hoped it would not be very long before these students would graduate as qualified teachers and return to work in their own communities.

The first graduates had done a magnificent job, according to Mr Biendurruy, and shown all other people what they could do by studying and hard work. He wished all other students in the course every success with their studies and hoped to see many more graduates from the course in the near future.

Mrs Bevan took the opportunity to thank the employers of the students for their support and encouragement they have provided to the students in their studies, in particular: Sr Leone Collins of

Holy Rosary School, Derby, and Sr Mary-Ellen McCormack of St Marys School, Broome.

On behalf of the graduates, Mrs Agnes Albert thanked all those responsible for the course for their help, particularly the college, employers, and the students' tutors.

The success of students within the course was very much dependent upon the work of the local tutors, Doug Hubble, the course co-ordinator said, and in particular the tutors responsible for the first graduates deserved special thanks; Mr Samuel Bleomitje of Derby and Sr Patricia Rhattigan of Broome, had been of invaluable assistance to both the students and to the college in both the development of the course and its implementation. The biggest problem the course now faced was in coping with the ever growing number of people wishing to study in the course. There are presently 100 students and 40 local tutors involved in the course in most areas of the state.

After the formal ceremony, graduates, guests and visitors were treated to a very expensive supper, provided by the Parents and Friends of Holy Rosary School.

People attending the ceremony included: Bishop J. Jobst of Broome, Mrs J. Stewart of Perth, Mr and Mrs R. Watkins of Kununurra, Mr A. Knight and Mr J. Sherwood of Mount Lawley College, Mr R. Maloney, local convenor of the ceremony, Mr M. McCombe of Derby, families and friends of the graduates and representatives of many of the government departments in Derby and students and tutors from nearby communities.

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SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL COURSE FOR WORKERS IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

The Mount Lawley College of Advanced Education is offering in 1980 a Graduate Diploma in Intercultural Studies for professional workers in Aboriginal communities. The course, available also to external students, can be completed in a minimum of three or a maximum of six years. Applicants who have completed a UG2 Diploma (or equivalent) together with one year of appropriate professional experience, will be considered for entry. Closing dates for applications are, for Semester One, 1980 - November 30, 1979; for Semester Two, 1980 - April 30, 1980. For application forms and further information, contact Admissions Officer, Mount Lawley College, 2 Bradford Street, Mount Lawley. Telephone: 271 9311.

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