

### 2008 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARDS

On Tuesday 2nd December, Woree State High School students and staff did themselves proud again. The evening recognised a number of competitions and awards held annually. Woree State High School received:

- Vocational Education and Training Urban School of the Year
- Carmel Iivonen - Vocational Education and Training Teacher of the Year
- *Name suppressed for the web* - Vocational Education and Training Student of the Year
- *Name suppressed for the web* - Runner Up School Based Trainee of the Year
- *Name suppressed for the web* - Encouragement for Cairns Port Authority Environmental Award
- *Name suppressed for the web* - Highly Recommended for Early Childhood Award

#### VET TEACHER OF THE YEAR

*Carmel Iivonen*



#### VET STUDENT OF THE YEAR

*Name Suppressed*



#### RUNNER-UP SCHOOL BASED TRAINEE

*Name Suppressed*



#### VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING URBAN SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

*Woree State High School*





**ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD  
C.P.A ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD**

*Name Suppressed*



**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED  
EARLY CHILDHOOD AWARD**

*Name Suppressed*



**WHAT A YEAR!**



Woree State High School knew how good the Pacific Island Drumming and Dance Troupe were!  
The rest of Cairns was about to find out.

A performance at the Cairns Show (and then invited for a repeat performance), a win at the Cairns Festival for their energetic exhibition to entertain the large crowd lining the Esplanade, followed up by an invitation to perform at half time at the massive 'crowd pulling' Taipans game. On Friday night they were named the winners of the Half Time Performers competition resulting in \$700 in prize money.

**Where did this all begin?** A couple of naturally talented young men, sitting outside C Block with upturned rubbish bins, drumming their way into the conscience of all the staff in the block. In fact, they were driving everyone insane with the constant drum, drum, drumming.

**Solution?** A grant from the Cairns Regional Council through their 'Drum Out Violence' program. Mrs Gail Beggs (one of those 'driven insane' teachers from C Block), and our wonderful school nurse Karin Klein, decided to try for some funding. And they were successful.

**The result?** \$5000 worth of instruments that coincidentally made a lot more noise than a couple of rubbish bins.

The grant purchased a variety of congo drums, bongo drums, amplifiers, and a selection of percussion instruments. Add to that cache of sound, Mose Tau's massive drum, hand carved by his Dad and you have a very loud, 'stop and listen' ensemble of pulsating, magnetic and crowd-pleasing music.

It sounds easy, doesn't it? But the boys have put in many, many hours refining their choreographed dance moves to that incredible sound of the Pacific Islands.

These clever young men weren't happy with what they knew. They were constantly trying new moves. They were combining traditional dance moves, which they had learned from their families and church connections, with a wicked sense of humour and an inherent ability to 'move to the music'.

Music and dance weren't the only spin offs for this talented group. The older boys in the group have been excellent role models to all students at school. They have had excellent attendance, consistent results and have been on "Good Standing" permanently. They have taken on the role of mediators for the younger Pacific Islander students.

The younger boys have shown an increased improvement in their behaviour and a very responsible attitude to their time commitments with music/dance and subject involvement.

The boys and their parents should be very proud of their efforts this year. Woree State High School certainly is.



Jan Warnock  
TEACHER