

News from the Top End

with Annette Anderson • October 2026



Hello Supporters, I've just clocked over 12 months as Anglican Dean at Nungalinga College. While it took a little while to get into the rhythm of it, as it's quite a different pace to teaching, I've got into the groove now.

I've recently returned from a road trip to Ngukurr and Urapunga. Craig Rogers was priested and Sandra John was deaconed. They were both joyous occasions and it was a privilege to go to support and celebrate with them. Sandra had just finished a four week stint at College with me in the Chaplaincy Program.

Please give God thanks for Craig and Sandra and pray that they can have a real impact for Him in their communities.

An 'average day'

An average day for me starts with chapel and after that I will visit each classroom and check on attendance. If there are people absent, and I don't know where they are, one of the Deans or Chaplains goes and checks if they're in their room because perhaps they're unwell. Or perhaps they're slept in, or perhaps they've gone to the shops.

There's also always ongoing travel planning as a Dean. It's my role to speak to the student, request for travel to be booked, and when the travel is confirmed, I'll speak again to the student. It's really important that there's always just that one

person communicating with students about everything.

My day always includes meetings, conversations on the phone and everyday interactions with students. If one of the students has any need, they come to you. Recently one student asked if I could store her bag until she returns next year! It has a blender in it and she wants to use it when she comes back.

So while it's not necessarily a job of highlights, at the end of the block when you see students leading chapel it's so encouraging to me but also to them. They're so brave to stand out the front and lead other students in what they've learnt. Then of course, my prayer is that they are able to build on this a bit when they go back to community, and keep on, sharing about how wonderful God is.

Pray that graduating students who come to College will keep on sharing the Good News of Jesus back in their communities.

The past four week block

For the past four weeks I've actually been doing two jobs. Students were booked to do

Main Image: Darwin Harbour

Circle Image: Annette & Greg

Middle Image: Greg, Craig and Annette at Craig's priesting

Bottom Image: Emily, Sandra, Greg and Annette at Sandra's deaconing

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the children's ministry course but there was no one to teach it. Because I've been a teacher at that level for 10 years, and developed those skills, I put my hand up to run the course. But before I offered myself as a sacrificial lamb, I spoke to the other Deans who agreed to look after my students while I was in the classroom. We were lucky because in the second half of the year, students numbers are a bit lower.

Give thanks that I could juggle both roles during the last four week block of study.

Chaplaincy Program

While I'm not trained as a Chaplain myself; my husband has encouraged me to guide them. With this in mind, I've created a chaplaincy workbook. It explains what their role is on the very first page in very clear, simple and concise language, along with pictures. Each day the Chaplains need to fill out things to show what they've done or learnt.

Chaplains also provide great help in the mornings if there's a student absent. It's often much better if they're woken up by an Aboriginal person than a white person.

A new initiative is that the Chaplain leads chapel twice over the four-week block. In their workbook there is a page for them to plan the structure of chapel, such as who's going to welcome or lead the action songs, do the Bible readings or say the prayers. When they lead, their role includes giving the Bible message. It's a long ongoing project to prepare a Bible message for our chaplains, so the workbook has a special section where it sets out in scaffold form how to craft the message, so that it's not an impossible task. In addition to this, the Chaplains run fellowship each night when the Deans are not on campus. Another part of my workbook is that the next day the chaplains have to say whether fellowship happened and how well it ran, so that it doesn't get lost in the mix. Previously we wouldn't necessarily find out what happened the night before.

Right at the start of the workbook the importance of paperwork is explained because it can be a bit of a pain. But the main role of a Chaplain is to listen to students, pray with students and support students. For the next block we have Mandy Sammy returning.



Chaplains leading chapel

We have been blessed with Chaplains who are keen and eager to support their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please pray for our Chaplains; may they be built up in their faith as they build others up.

Thanks for your prayers and your support.



Mandy Sammy with one of our students

**Blessings in Christ,
Annette (and Greg)**

Pray for

**my work at
Nungalinga College**

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