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68

BY: ATS/14

Sir/Madam,

At the recent visit by the Committee to Kowanyama the Hon. Dana Vale MP asked about a gardening programme at the State School. Please pass on the following information:-

A small irrigated market garden is currently at the school but has not been in use for the past 5 years. When it was in operation it supplied fresh vegetables to the Home Economics class (I believe that this class no longer operates) and a small run of chickens was available for eggs. The home economics class (5 years ago) prepared meals for sale at the Kowanyama Guest House once per week (fortnight) as part of their training programme.

The garden is still there though overgrown, with chicken coup and timed irrigation pipework still visible amongst the weeds. It would appear that the system followed that of an organic perma-culture system with the chickens supplying suitable manure, controlling insects and consuming left over produce.

It is my understanding that this facility is to be built over with the construction of a new Library for the School and Community.

It would, I assume, be in the interests of not only the School but also the Community if this small garden was re-established as well as the home economics classes for all students.

Regards,

John

John R. Japp
Chief Executive Officer
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council