

Let's all live together in harmony

HARMONY Day was celebrated at Katherine High School with a wide range of activities on Tuesday.

The day started off with a free breakfast of croissants and Danish pastries, which was followed by Steve Margetts' Year 9 class cooking food underground in a umu, or hangi.

For morning tea, teachers brought in a plate of food from other cultures, while Home Ec classes made Greek cakes and pastries.

At lunch, students tasted food from Tonga, India, the Torres Strait, South Africa,

Italy and Lebanon.

Other activities held during the day were a European handball competition, a display of cultural art and craft in the library, a Harmony Day quiz and poster competition and orange hand printing on calico.

The film 'Goal: A Dream Begins' was shown at the high school on Friday.

Home Ec teacher Rae Brown said the whole school was involved.

"The day was a great success with pretty much all of the students getting involved in one way or another," Ms Brown said.

Rebecca Sahr, Freya Mason, Steve Margetts and Roslyn Harcastle were also part of the Harmony Day committee.

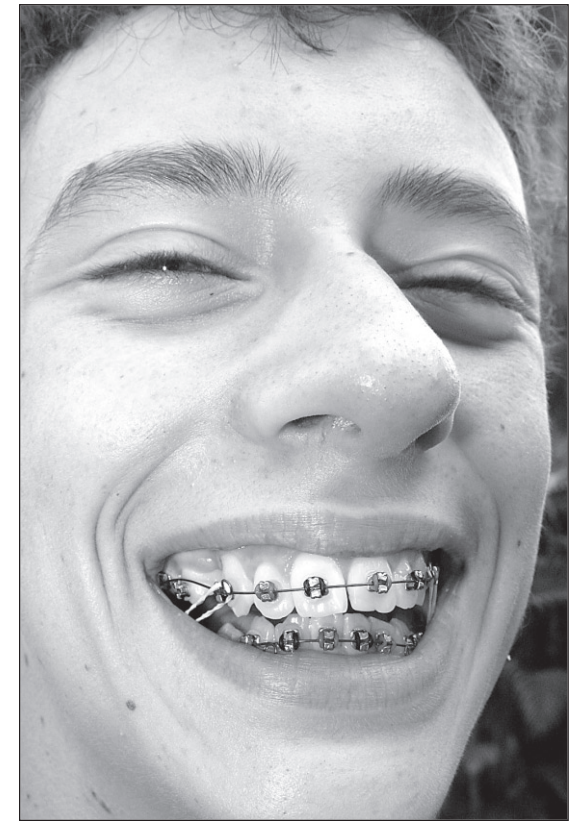
Harmony Day was celebrated on Saturday with a feast and dance performance at the Mabuhay Hall.

The night was organised by the Katherine Filipino-Australia Association NT and was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Food and dances from countries as far away and varied as the Philippines, Thailand, India, the United States, China and Italy were enjoyed by those attending.

Some of the acts included the St Joseph's College choir, traditional and modern Filipino dances, a cabaret act, the Indian hokey-pokey and the Katherine Social Dance Group performing a repertoire of dances.

LEFT: The high school's Troy Leger removes meat from the New Zealand-style hangi.



Give us a smile!

JOHL Solloway is the lucky recipient of new braces, courtesy of the Australian Society of Orthodontists' Give a Smile initiative.

He is one of 200 young Australians who have been taken off the public waiting list for orthodontic treatment.

Johl was as happy as could reasonably be expected about getting braces.

"It hurt when I got them in but now it's fine," Johl said. "It will be better afterward."

Orthodontics treatments like Johl's can cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000, so his mum Tia and grandmother Sue Williams were shocked but elated to receive a call saying his would be free and done right away.

"It's like Tattsлото; it's always other people," Ms Williams said.

"I honestly thought the lady when she called was having me on."

Thanks to Give a Smile, public waiting lists have been reduced by 10 percent and taxpayers have saved more than \$1 million.



David Cox and Tara Richardson in a Thai dance.



A dance from the Philippine region of Mindanao performed by Bless Jeffery, Johanna Bumanlag, Judy Payne and Lita Odquin.

STREET TALK

How do you feel about mining company Xstrata being able to resubmit its open cut mining proposal for the McArthur River mine?

ANDREW PRIESTLEY walks the Terrace for views.



Kylee McDougall, 31
"If it's creating more jobs, that's fine. The kids need to work."



Peta Minnett, 14
"If the government make a decision in the first place, they should stick to it."



Anne Kells, 59
"I don't agree. They knocked it back, why should they continue with it?"



Michael Smith, 59
"I think the mining development is important financially. I would like to make sure that there are environmental safeguards in place, though."



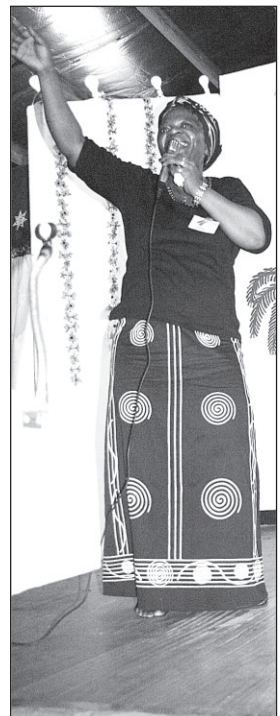
Magda Buchholz, 57
"I find it very difficult to judge because I care more about the environment."



Max Hewlett, 66
"The mining companies seem to be able to do what they like. They pull strings with the government. They don't care about the environment as long as the dollars are rolling in."



Michelle and Tony Marshall do the foxtrot.



Gladys Mattanion performs an African song.

Me and my work

BEN THOMPSON - NT TECHNOLOGY

Name: Ben Thompson.
Occupation: IT technician.
Employer: NT Technology.
Time on the job: Three years.
The aim of my employer: To provide IT solutions for Katherine.
My duties: Repairing IT equipment
The good stuff: The people I work with and the customers we service.
The not-so-good stuff: Nothing
What I would really like to be doing: Sitting in the coldest, darkest cinema with popcorn in one hand and an iced coffee in the other watching the loudest, scariest movie!



OBSERVER

READERS CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOMED

CAN you name all the elected Katherine Town Council members. There's... and there's... and so on. People have come in and said they have no public profile. Have they? Test yourself out - there are six plus the mayor. If you get it right you have community interest at heart. If you are, like most, struggling, get out more and attend a few council meetings and observe your elected members at work from the public gallery.

AN OBSERVER phoned in to say anti-social behaviour is alcohol-related. Well, tell us something we don't know. The same person said that it goes away in the Dry Season. It may lessen but it never really goes away.

DID YOU know? 10 years ago: The Russian space station Mir and the space shuttle Atlantis are joined in space in a docking manoeuvre and American astronaut Shannon Lucid joins the crew of Mir. 20 years ago:

Rome: Three Bulgarians and three Turks are cleared through lack of evidence of plotting to kill the Pope. 50 years ago: Victoria: Referendum on extending hotel closing hours results in a decisive 'no' vote. 100 years ago: New York: The State Meteorological Office says that the science of forecasting the weather is "within our grasp". *** WHAT is the biggest thing that has happened in Katherine over the last six months? If you draw a blank, think again. But then again probably no real big thing has happened. An extra train a week is a good thing. *** IT IS good news that Katherine MLA Fay Miller is on the road to recovery. The whole community wishes her well and is looking to see her smiling face again. She will no doubt get her teeth stuck into the Martin Government as soon as she is back. See you real soon Fay.