

Quambatook Group School No. 2443

13 Charlton Rd

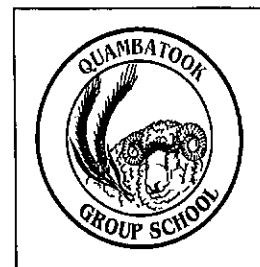
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Dear Northern District Community Health Service's members and guests

I am sorry that I cannot be with you tonight due to Canberra commitments.

I am writing on behalf of students, staff and parents of Quambatook Group School to thank you for enabling our students to participate in such a successful, rewarding and memorable program. It was wonderful for our students to participate in such a brilliant experience, having an opportunity to work with such talented people as Hugh McDonald. To write, record and present such high standard music was a once in a life time experience for our students and I am certain that it will give them greater confidence in the future- that if they put their minds to it they can achieve great things. The community of Quambatook is very proud of 'our' Dusty Tracks CD/DVD and it has created quite a 'buzz' in our community.

Our involvement gave our students an opportunity to share their lives in a small Mallee town with the wider community, recognising some of the problems, but also creating a forum for identifying many of the great things about life in a place like Quambatook-well expressed in the song 'Quambatook'. Thank you so much to all those involved -Hugh, Jenny, Claire, Colleen, Jamie, and staff and students at St.Joes and Lalbert. Our students and teachers really enjoyed working with you all.

Lastly may I express a sincere thank you to Jim Hirst. Jim played a pivotal role in pulling the threads together and he should take a great deal of credit and personal satisfaction from the success of the program.

Yours Gratefully

Jeffrey Millard

Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Millard". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

For the past 6 months former Redgum member Hugh McDonald has been working with St. Joseph's Primary School Kerang, Lalbert Primary School and Quambatook Group School to write songs and produce an album. A few times a month he would come and visit each school and work with the classes to get their song finished. Then a man named Jamie Roberts came and videoed the classes for a video clip.

On the 13th of November we had our concert. It was great to see all the other school's songs and lyrics and how they are dealing with the drought and things like that! All of the songs were fantastic and everyone had worked really hard! They all turned out great and we had a lot of fun, not only, writing, recording and making them, but singing in front of our parents, friends and family. The concert was awesome! The teachers were all proud of us for our hard work.

After the concert all of the schools came to our school for a BBQ. Hugh McDonald came to the school as well and while he was there all of the kids went up to him and asked for his autograph.

By Chloe, Shannon & Ella (St. Joseph's Kerang)