

Garbutt State School was established in 1930 and moved to its current location in 1932. The school is located in the Townsville Education District and services the suburb of Garbutt.

Garbutt is a low socio-economic suburb surrounded by commercial and light industrial areas and close to the Townsville Airport and RAAF Base.

The Garbutt Community consists of diverse groups including nuclear families, single supporting parents, grandparents taking on parenting roles, the unemployed, a growing group of low density unit dwellers and pensioner housing. A large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and increasing South Sea Islander population live in the suburb. More recently motel style accommodation for families was established including provision of all meals.

Currently some 137 students attend the primary school in Years 1 to 7 and 25 students in the off site preschool. Of these students 70 % are of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander descent and 10 % South Sea Islander (Tokelan) descent and 20% European backgrounds. 45% of our students are Aboriginal descendants of the Bindal, Birra Gubba, Wulgurukaba, Kalkadungan, Kutjala, Butchulla Peoples and a significant number of families are from Bwgcolman (Of Palm Island) which is an Aboriginal word referring to many moved to one place.

Of our school population, 5% of students have special learning needs, another 6% of students have disabilities and another 10% of students are under the care of The Department of Child Safety.

Currently, 15 children are involved in the Books in Homes Program. They are all very excited to be choosing and receiving their own books. Some comments made by children include:

"It made me learn some words. They are the only books I have at home. 'Tell Me Why' is my favourite book."

"I loved choosing my books because they are good stories. My auntie reads them to me nearly every night before I go bed."

"How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon is my favourite book because it's about dinosaurs. I don't have any other books about dinosaurs. All my other books are really old. I liked picking my own books."

"I only have 6 other books at home. I really like reading Spiderman with my brother. I like having books that are my very own."

Each time I ask children to look through the books and choose which ones they would like, the other children in the class say "Can you pick me?" "When can I get some books?" or "Will it be my turn next time to get some books?" One child said "I really like reading so next year when you pick more kids, can you pick me because would like some books." The same questions come when it is book presentation time.

A high percentage of our children come from low socio-economic families, and for some, the only access they have to books is through school. Some of these children are already involved in Books In Homes, and we have seen them develop an interest in books and learning to read.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting our school in the Books In Homes Program.



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